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ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 330—V LUNE XXXI [NEW SERIES]

JULY, 1946

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY.
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

SO the clamour and argument about Remembrance Day ceases. The November Armistice-tide period has been chosen, as many of us urged. *The Times* leading article on this subject seems to me to deserve wide reading. Here is it:

A Day of Remembrance

"The discussion about the time and manner of commemorating the nation's dead of the second world war has been ended by a decision that will command general approval. As the Prime Minister announced in Parliament yesterday, the date 1939-1945 will be added to those of 1914-1918 in the austere dedication of the Cenotaph in Whitehall to 'The Glorious Dead.' The King will perform a simple act of unveiling on November 10th, as his father before him did in 1919; and that day will be honoured throughout the country as 'Remembrance Sunday.' In future years a similar day will be observed, with the accustomed salute of the two minutes' silence, on the Sunday before the old Armistice Day, unless that day itself falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

"It is altogether right that the dead of both wars should thus be honoured together. They fell defending the same cause and trusting in the same hope; and many who gave their lives in these latter years were the children, or the companions in arms, of those who went before. If the same monument is to represent them all to after ages, and the same date to recall their memory, there is good cause not to depart far from the day that already bears such poignant associations. Indeed it seems to answer to an abiding need in human nature. Some of the world's greatest poets—Homer, Virgil, Dante, Milton—have seen in the falling autumnal leaves the image of the fleeting generations of men; and from before the dawn of history our ancestors seem to have dedicated the month of November to thoughts of the beloved dead. In the proud festival of All Saints, as well as the more sombre commemoration of All Souls, the Christian Church has made this immemorial cult its own, giving it richer, nobler, and in a deep sense happier significance. So in the quiet of the falling year we shall remember the valour and the sacrifice, and continue to give thanks."

Honours

The King has honoured two ex-Servicemen, one of them our own St. Dunstaner, Donald McPhee, who receives the O.B.E.

Donald McPhee served in the 2nd New Zealand Rifle Brigade and was blinded at Messines, and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, where he learned to be a masseur. Returning

to his own country, he established a successful practice in Auckland which, I learn, is still going strong. His son, Malcolm, a lieutenant in the Fleet Air Arm, visited this country many times during his war service and brought me good news of his family. When Sir Clutha Mackenzie left New Zealand to go to America and India on missions for St. Dunstan's, Donald McPhee took his place as our representative on the spot, and he was largely responsible for the setting up in New Zealand of "Little St. Dunstan's," an organisation which, as its name implies, is a miniature of our own, to undertake the same work for New Zealand blinded men. "Little St. Dunstan's" is associated with the parent organisation in the happiest relationship and we congratulate McPhee himself and all connected with him upon the honour which, though it goes to him, is shared by all.

The other honour is a Knighthood for Brigadier General E. R. Fitzpatrick, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., who becomes Sir Richard Fitzpatrick. He has been Chairman of the British Legion and I have been his Vice-Chairman for the past three years. We have worked together and I have had full opportunity of appreciating the high quality of his leadership, comradeship and devotion to his self-imposed duty of spending the whole of his life in working for the welfare of ex-Service men and women.

St. Dunstan's offers him congratulations upon his Knighthood, which enriches us all.

Since I wrote these Notes, two more Honours which will be of interest to St. Dunstaners have been notified. This time they go to Canadians. Our own St. Dunstaner, Major Ted Dunlop, receives an O.B.E. Dunlop came to Church Stretton after he was blinded and received severe wounds to his right hand when serving with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He was with us for some months recovering from his wounds and studying the usual subjects and reading Economics. He married Miss Dorothy Tupper, one of the Canadian V.A.D.s working at St. Dunstan's. On his return to Canada, Dunlop was appointed to the Casualty Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Veterans' Affairs in Ottawa as an administrative officer, and it is in this connection that he has gained his award of an O.B.E.

The other appointment is that of Mr. Lou M. Wood to the Order of C.B.E. Lou Wood, as all his friends call him, was a pioneer for St. Dunstan's in Canada. A leading business and financial man in Toronto, he was the first to give Edwin Baker and A. G. Viets and others the backing they wanted when they started a St. Dunstan's unit on their return to Canada after the first war. This unit developed into the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, of which Lou Wood was the first and only President.

We offer the sincere congratulations of St. Dunstaners of both wars to both our Canadian friends.

The British Legion Elections

At the British Legion Annual Elections at Whitsuntide, having served the usual term of three years as Vice-Chairman, I did not offer myself for re-election and did not accept any invitation to go forward to the Chair itself. My reason was that the Chairmanship of the Legion, in addition to everything else, is a big administrative job and I want to keep myself free so long as my services are needed for my work at St. Dunstan's and in the House of Commons.

I am grateful to many St. Dunstaners and other ex-Servicemen who gave me their support during my period of office and, as I said at the Conference, whether I am in high office in the Legion or am an ordinary member, matters little to me. I will still give ex-Servicemen and women whatever services I can from my place in the House of Commons or elsewhere.

IAN FRASER.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their silver wedding anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lambourne, Bletchley, May 16th; Mr. and Mrs. E. Watts, Birkenhead, May 30th; Mr. and Mrs. T. McCann, Kirby Cross, June 18th; Mr. and Mrs. H.

Northgreaves, Hampton, June 18th; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith, Bolsover, July 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Perrett, Devizes, July 16th.

Promotion

The son of G. M. Jordan, of Rhymney, now serving in Palestine, to Captain.

An Albert Medallist

St. Dunstan's is proud to welcome to its ranks W. Wrigley, of Manchester, who was awarded the Albert Medal for his gallantry in the incident which resulted in the partial loss of his sight and the loss of both hands. A sergeant in the Royal Scots Regiment, he was engaged on manoeuvres when a mine failed to explode at a given time. The men were already in action and Wrigley, fearing that it might explode as they scaled the barrier, tried to throw it clear but it exploded in his hands.

Wrigley has not so far come to St. Dunstan's for training. He has a certain degree of useful sight and is employed at the Ministry of Labour as a messenger. It was only when Mrs. Dunphy visited him recently and noticed his ribbon that we knew of his award, and then it was with great reluctance that he told us of the facts.

A York Event

On Whit Monday a six miles Victory Walk, organised by the York Clarence Working Men's Club, was held in York, the first prize being the Morgan Cup. This trophy is named after Arthur Morgan, the new war St. Dunstaner. As a member of the organising Club, Morgan, who is 32 years of age, is totally blind, took part in the walk. He finished in the fine time of 61 minutes 23 seconds.

In the evening a very large crowd gathered in the Club for a concert and the prize distribution. Amongst those present were Miss P. E. Pease, St. Dunstan's Social Visitor, and Messrs. Morgan, Scaife and Durkin, all St. Dunstaners. The Chairman of the Club called on Arthur Morgan to present the prizes. With a few well-chosen remarks, the blinded sportsman handed over the cup and the many other prizes to the winners. His own prize for having finished the course he gave to St. Dunstan's.

A Law Success

Congratulations to A. H. Simcocks, of Ballasalla, Isle of Man (new war), who has passed his intermediate examination for admission to the Manx Bar.

Young St. Dunstaners

Ethel Dennison (York), late of the W.A.A.F., has been Mentioned in Despatches for services with Bomber Command.

Christina McLoughlin has won a Silver Cup for singing in the Ladies' Solo Competition at a recent Dublin Festival.

Mary Loveridge has won a scholarship to the North London Collegiate School.

Reunions

Now that Reunions have been resumed all over the country for the first time since 1939, men who have lost their sight in the war which has just ended are finding comradeship and encouragement in the company of men who were blinded in the years 1914-1918. A Reunion of St. Dunstan's men of Bedford and district was held at the Dujohn on June 16th. Over thirty men, with their wives and friends, had luncheon, which was followed by an afternoon of music and entertainment.

J. C. Carney, of Dunstable, who, before 1939, worked in Bedford, was one who came to the Reunion to discover again the spirit of mutual help and inspiration which he had already known at St. Dunstan's Training Centre.

Commander A. D. D. Smyth, Welfare Superintendent, presided at the luncheon, and the Deputy Mayor (Cllr. A. L. Nicholls) welcomed the visitors to Bedford. Miss Hensley, Area Visitor, was also present.

E.W.H.

Men from the Birmingham and Wolverhampton district met at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on June 17th, where they were welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Alderman A. S. Giles. Mrs. Edwards, who lost her sight and both hands in the course of her work at a munitions factory, was among the new war St. Dunstaners present. Miss M. Hamar Greenwood, a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, Mr. W. S. Brazener, Chairman, Birmingham Branch, British Legion, Mr. E. C. Thomas, Hon. Secretary, Alexandra Musical Society, and Mr. J. Murphy, of the Farcroft Hotel, both of whom have organised parties during the war for St. Dunstaners, Miss Gough, Mrs. Argyle, and Miss Lewis, Area Visitors, were also present.

The Oxford meeting took place at the Angel Cafe on June 20th, Commander Smyth again presiding. Among the other guests was Major D. Montgomerie, Chairman, and Col. E. Holt, Secretary, of the Oxfordshire County Branch of the British Legion, Miss M. E. Stevens, Area Visitor, Miss Lloyd, and Mrs. Giorgi.

A welcome to Leicester was given by Capt. A. V. Boddy, County Chairman of the British Legion, to some sixty St. Dunstaners at the historic de Montfort Hall, Leicester, on June 25th. This was

one of our biggest meetings, but, like all the others, it was just a grand, informal party, with everyone getting down to the job of making up for seven lost years. Mrs. Boddy came with her husband and Mrs. Argyle and Mrs. Giorgi were also present.

The Norwich meeting was on July 1st, at Stuart Hall, and here Col. Eric Ball, Senior Member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, presided. He received a great ovation, which was renewed when he introduced the Lord Mayor of Norwich (Alderman S. A. Bailey), who welcomed the St. Dunstaners to the City. British Legion friends present on this occasion included Capt. J. J. Chapman, Chairman, Eastern Area, and Capt. A. A. Rice, Chairmen, Norwich Branch.

Rounding off a crowded month of meetings, Hampshire St. Dunstaners held their Reunion at Kimbell's Restaurant, on July 3rd, where they were greeted by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth (Alderman A. E. Allaway, J.P.). Mr. H. B. Perry, Chairman of the Portsmouth Branch of the British Legion, was another guest.

A St. Dunstan's Baker

Herbert Scaife, of York, a trained baker before the war, who was blinded in Italy in 1944, has started work again with his old firm.

St. Dunstaners have, in a number of cases, been able to return to the work they were doing before they were blinded, but to the best of our knowledge this is the first St. Dunstaner to return to his job as a baker. His work includes cutting, filling and folding sausage rolls, and packing trays.

To my St. Dunstan's Friends

By the time this REVIEW reaches you I shall have returned to my own country, where I am to be a telephone operator in a military hospital.

Before I go, I wish to say to all my St. Dunstan's friends how much I have appreciated their friendship. I owe much to St. Dunstan's and I am very proud to belong to it. In my own country, I shall proudly wear its badge and I will do my best to keep its name high.

To all at St. Dunstan's I say good luck always and au revoir.

REINDER WAAS.
(Sergeant), Netherlands Army.

From the Chairman's Postbag

The Chairman receives letters from St. Dunstaners and other ex-Service men upon a hundred and one different matters, covering almost every human activity, and generally related to the difficulties of the times. We think that brief extracts of letters from the Chairman's Postbag, without mentioning any names, may be of interest. The Chairman's Office has not time to verify every idea or suggestion that occurs in these letters, and we cannot hold ourselves responsible if advice that is taken as a result of reading an extract proves to be wrong. Nevertheless, Sir Ian takes an enormous amount of trouble to try and help everybody who writes to him, and it may be that some of the matters touched upon here may be of interest or value.

A Job for my Son.—A St. Dunstaner wrote to say that his son had just been demobilised and would like a job in UNRRA. Sir Ian replied saying that he did not personally know anything about recruiting for UNRRA, but advised that the son should go and see the Manager of his local Labour Exchange and talk over with him the kind of job that he wants.

Grants for Military Medallists.—A St. Dunstaner (Military Medallist) of the 1914-1918 war wrote to Sir Ian asking if it was true that Military Medallists were to receive a sum of money.

Sir Ian replied that it was a fact that an award of 6d. a day added to the pension, or a lump sum of £20, is payable to every Military Medallist of the 1939-45 war, but not before that date and that he would raise the subject in the House should an opportunity occur.

National Egg Laying Trials

9th period, May 20th, 1946, to June 16th,

Position	Name	Test Score
1	J. Campbell	835
2	G. C. Jackson	811
3	A. Jarvis... ..	773
4	D. McLaren	771
5	A. H. Capper	752
6	T. M. Fisher	695
7	G. Powell	681
8	W. A. Smith	662
9	T. Gregory	562
10	M. W. Brown	542
11	A. Chaffin	522
12	C. McIntosh	502
Average per bird, 132.08		

Notes and News

A photograph of St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, taken at the official reopening, has been circulated to all British Embassies and Legations throughout the world. One hundred and fifty copies have been ordered and distributed through an official Government source. ★ ★ ★

R. J. Vine, of West Ealing, has won second prize in the International Literary Competition, organised by the "Jewish Braille Review," of New York.

★ ★ ★

At the Centenary Celebrations of Brighton College, Mr. Eric Neve, K.C., revealed that the College was once housed in "Portland House" (now St. Dunstan's, West House) until 1848.

Brighton Notes

Greetings again from West House, where the holiday season is now in full swing! If we could but instal our own sunshine on the lawn then all would be perfect.

We were filled to bursting point at Whitsun. On Whit Monday evening we had our usual Holiday Dance, with various spot prizes and competitions. The prizes were presented by Sister Conroy, as the evening was her last at West House before leaving us to join the Y.M.C.A. in Germany. Our best wishes go with her.

Concerts at West House have by no means diminished. At the beginning of June, Mr. Austin Laidlaw gave us another enjoyable evening of recorded music. Our good friends of the Musical Club provided us with two delightful concerts this month. The Musical Fraternity came along on June 18th, and on the 25th the Sussex Women's Musical Club entertained us for the first time.

The Staff are still dabbling in Amateur Dramatics, and inflicted another evening of One Act Plays on the household on Whit Sunday. Those taking part were Sisters Carter, Watkins, Arnold, Temple, Furst, Ashfords (1 and 2), and Orderlies Mitchell and Webster. Later in the month Matron Ouseley gave an amusing performance in "The Dear Departed," in which she was ably assisted by Sister Temple, and Orderlies Ball, Webster and Hall. The next experiment, so we are told, is to be a three act play! This, provided their vocal chords will stand the strain, and the men manage to sit through it, should be good fun.

During the month we have received many

invitations to events outside St. Dunstan's. On the 30th the Grocers' Association gave another excellent Concert in the Braille Room at Ovingdean, to which we of West House were invited.

We regret to report that at the return match of the Spelling Bee (1914-1918 war men v. 1939-1945 war men), which was this time held at Ovingdean, West House was unable to hold its own. The younger generation came out on top. It seems, if we are to compete with the new lads, then "Spelling Classes" should be inaugurated at West House.

The Whist Drives and Darts Matches are still a weekly feature, and every Friday evening the Lounge continues to be packed with dancers. We extend a hearty welcome to any Ovingdean boys who would care to join us on these occasions—come along, we can pack you all in!

And so, goodbye from West House until next month.

The Braille Gift Fund

Some time ago, it will be recalled, a generous friend of St. Dunstan's made a gift of £500 to encourage braille reading among St. Dunstaners of both wars.

One of the first arrangements was the institution of money prizes for St. Dunstaners passing an Advanced Braille Reading Test.

Since the gift was made, forty-eight St. Dunstaners have qualified for the special gift of £3 at St. Dunstan's Training Centre, while no fewer than seventy-one last war men have entered and passed the Test in London and other centres. In addition, fourteen ex-prisoners of war also qualified for the special gift by reason of their prowess in braille, and there have been ninety-eight successes in the preliminary competition.

It had been hoped, in due course, to hold a Braille Championship Competition to find the best braille reader, but this has presented a number of difficulties, not the least of which has been the recent removal of the Training Centre from Church Stretton to Ovingdean.

The Championship has, therefore, been postponed until the Braille Dept. at Ovingdean has had sufficient time to settle down.

The Advanced Braille Reading Test consists of reading two pages of interpoint braille in twenty minutes with understanding and a reasonable degree of accuracy.

Any St. Dunstaner wishing to take the Test should get in touch with the Editor.

Ovingdean Notes

Now that we are installed at Ovingdean, the distinct advantages of being near a large town are showing themselves. Brighton people's generosity enables St. Dunstaners to have free seats at most cinemas in the town, free seats every week at the Grand Theatre, and the Palace Pier Theatre, free entry with escorts to the Follies' Concert Party and to the Princes and Regent Dance Halls any evening. For those who like a tang of salt with their entertainment, Captain Knight, of the "Martha Gunn" motor launch, has invited the boys, with their escorts, to take free trips on any week-day; the Shoreham Rowing Club have made all St. Dunstan's trainees honorary members of the Club, and members will take trainees rowing in the evenings or at week-ends. The Rottingdean Bathing Pool has been made available to us on Saturday mornings. Those interested in other sports are also catered for. The County Cricket Club send invitations for a number of trainees to attend all matches played at Hove, and trainees are admitted free to the Greyhound Track.

There is, of course, the weekly dance here every Monday evening, with our own newly re-formed band playing one week and Miss Bowers' Band from Boots Café playing the other.

Up to date there have been five outside dances given. Many more are already booked for future dates.

There have also been two concerts at Ovingdean, one by the Brighton and Hove Operatic Society and one by the Grocers' Association, who entertained the boys very hospitably in the interval with refreshments and cigarettes.

An increasing number of trainees have asked for facilities to attend lectures on various subjects, and through the kind offices of the Workers' Educational Association, parties have attended and thoroughly enjoyed the two Oxford University Extension Courses at the Community Centre, Friends' House, Brighton, one on Musical Appreciation and one on International Relations.

Mr. T. J. Roberts is Organising Tutor of the W.E.A., and has offered to arrange courses in the building next term. We hope that he will take one himself, as his lecture and discussion at Ovingdean on "Unemployment," was obviously the sort

of thing we have been waiting for. There was also a most stimulating discussion on the problems of Black and White in Africa, led by Mr. T. J. Hining.

★ ★ ★

Congratulations to the following, who have passed tests at Ovingdean, Church Stretton and Avenue Road:—

Typing.—W. Carr, N. Daniel, J. Mash, H. Foster, T. McKay, R. Owen, C. Stafford, R. Turner, R. Birkin, J. Martin.

Braille Reading (Interline).—J. Newton, S. Stinson, N. Daniel, H. Foster, L. White, L. Constable, G. Durant, E. Gould.

Advanced Braille Reading (Interpoint).—R. Wilson, C. Stafford, J. A. Bocking (West House).

Braille Writing.—K. Storath, G. Poole, T. Lydon, H. Pierrepont, R. Bridges, K. Johnston-Stewart, P. Owens.

Moon.—H. Potts.

War Medals

On June 18th, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Prime Minister in the House of Commons if he would recommend that the War Medal 1939-1945 should be extended to the Home Guard. Mr. Attlee replied that it was not proposed to recommend the extension of the War Medal to part-time military service. It would cause great difficulties in relation to Civil Defence organisations; service in both these bodies was recognised by the award of the Defence Medal.

Sir Ian asked the Prime Minister if he would recommend that a campaign medal, or special emblem, should be granted to officers and men of the three Services who were engaged upon bomb disposal work in this country.

Mr. Attlee said that such service is recognised by the grant of the Defence Medal and the War Medal, and the time qualification of three years had been specially reduced to three months. The grant of such an emblem would at once give rise to demands from other quarters. It was not proposed, therefore, to recommend the institution of a further emblem.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Edna Illingworth (Rochdale), on December 15th, to 1st Class Stoker Eric Luker.

Edith Humble (East Howdon-on-Tyne), on November 3rd, to Mr. William Hamblin.

Leslie Scott (King's Langley), on December 1st, to Miss Winifred Harris.

Frances Massey (Reading), on November 10th, to Kenneth Ernest Pope.

Church Stretton Notes

The next issue of Church Stretton Notes will be "positively our last appearance," and there are already signs of our imminent departure. We have had a good variety of entertainments this month, and on Sunday, June 2nd, we were very pleased to meet some new friends, the Royal Netherlands Brigade Choir and Concert Party, from the Dutch Army camp near Albrighton. They sang in Dutch and English, and they also brought with them an excellent Impressionist and a small Hawaian band. We hear that they may be stationed near Brighton for a short time, and so we very much hope to see them again. The 6th Battalion R.E.M.E. provided a splendid band for the dance in the Central Hall on June 3rd. A dance was given in Morris's ballroom on June 4th by the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Toc H. This was our last visit and, as usual, we had a very enjoyable evening. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking our hosts for all their hospitality. On June 14th we had a lunch-time show from Delya, Arthur Tatler, and Don Alvin. Our friends from Bridgnorth again brought their Electric Organ for the dance on the 17th. The Croft Hermits gave a grand performance of "Billeted." We were afraid that this might have been their last visit, but we are very glad to hear that they will be coming again before the end of term. On Sunday, June 30th, artistes from Birmingham B.B.C. entertained us with a variety show.

The United Motion Pictures representatives are busy fixing up their apparatus in the Maltings. They are making a film of the various spheres of Industrial Training, which will later form part of an appeal.

Au revoir and good luck to those who have left us since our last notes were published. Paddy Sutton left on June 11th to work on the router with the Greengate Wood Turning Co., Dukinfield, Cheshire; Charlie White left on June 19th to start work on assembly with Messrs. Singer's, of Glasgow, on July 8th; Albert Stroud started work on June 24th as a capstan operator with the Radio Transmission Co., 45 Nightingale Lane, Clapham; George Weldrick left us on June 29th to operate a small bench lathe with Messrs. Dean and Son, Grovehill, Beverley; Tom Harrison starts on the router with the Sheffield Wood

Turning Co., on July 8th; Douggie Cashmore left on June 28th to start on July 8th as a Telephone Operator with Messrs. I.C.I. (Metals) Ltd., Selly Oak, Birmingham.

The new massage class started here on July 3rd. Six men at the Massage School in London have passed their Electricity Exams. (first four with credit). They are Bill Morris, Jock Inness, Bob Lloyd, Bob Evans, Mickey Burns, and Alan Vickers.

The Elusive Eye

*From Sunny South I came to see
If they could find an eye for me
In England, rationed blitzed and cold,
But people warm, with hearts of gold.*

*A charming people I met there,
And many a lady sweet and fair,
While waiting for the time to be
That they could find that eye for me.*

*The deed was done, the die was cast,
Sir Tudor found an eye at last.
To Rookwood then I had to go
To be prepared there for the show.*

*Then came the final weary wait,
My Matron helped to ease my fate.
We have a battle o'er "blues,"
But fight it clean—without abuse.*

*And Sister in a watchful mood,
Keeps eye on temp, and pulse and food
While Nursey, oh, so sweet is she,
Just dips her finger in my tea.*

*"The hour has struck, the time is here,"
So Sister told me with good cheer,
And Nursey watched with bated breath
For my return, as from the death.*

*Alas, it proved a false alarm,
The eye he found had come to harm.
That eye for me with which to see
Seems as elusive as a bee.*

*At Rookwood there is little rest.
The weary patients try their best
To snatch an hour or so of sleep
Ere Sister wakes them from the deep.*

*Scarce has the dawn begun to shade,
But Sister does her squad parade.
With water, soap and all the gear
To wash the dirty patients here.*

*I try to sleep, there is no hope
For Nursey now has lost the soap.
I try again, it is in vain,
So turn me round and have a smoke.*

POP MARAIS.

Miss Morrah Returns Home

Miss Nesta Morrah, for twenty-three years one of St. Dunstan's most loyal and faithful helpers, sailed for her home in New Zealand on July 10th, on the *Rimutaka*.

It was in 1923 that Miss Morrah came to this country for a holiday which was to last, as she thought, for about eighteen months. Instead she stayed with us, and it is our privilege to think that St. Dunstan's was one of her chief reasons for doing so, for she was never happier than when she was working for St. Dunstan's. At sports meetings, dances, whist and bridge drives, and reunions she has been an ever-popular visitor, always giving her help freely and unobtrusively. When the war broke out she still came to Regent's Park each day, although there were few St. Dunstaners passing through then. We had other visitors instead, but even daily and nightly air-raids did not deter her, and to the tiny staff still in Regent's Park she was a very present help in trouble.

Until the time of her departure, in spite of a period of very indifferent health, she regularly visited the Star and Garter Home and two St. Dunstaners in particular, C. Gibson and J. H. Parker, will greatly miss her visits to them there.

Everyone who knows Miss Morrah will join with us in wishing her "bon voyage," and years of happiness in her homeland. She will often be in our thoughts, as we know we shall be in hers.

As a mark of their deep appreciation of her splendid years of service, the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's have presented to Miss Morrah a handsome travelling clock, while from the Headquarters Staff she has received a leather writing case.

Mrs. McGill

It is with deep regret that we learn that Mrs. McGill, who was to have sailed with her husband, J. W. McGill, of Hertford, for New Zealand, in the *Rimutaka*, with Miss Morrah, died suddenly at 8 Park Crescent, an hour before the boat train left for Tilbury.

The fact that they were to travel home on the same ship had been a very pleasant surprise to Miss Morrah and to Mr. and Mrs. McGill. Miss Morrah had expected to meet them on the train and she left London still unaware of the tragic happening.

Our deep sympathy goes out to our St. Dunstaner in his great loss.

Births

QUINN.—To the wife of E. Quinn, of Plumstead (new war), on June 2nd, a daughter—Patricia Margaret.

ROBINSON.—On June 20th, to the wife of L. Robinson, of Duncroft, near Manchester (new war), a son—Michael Leslie.

Marriages

BLACK—STOKES.—On May 8th, Sadie Black (new war) to Mr. T. J. Stokes.

FRANKLIN—WILSON.—On June 8th, A. H. Franklin, of Edmonton (new war), to Miss Ruby Wilson, Music Teacher at St. Dunstan's, Church Stretton.

★ ★ ★

Miss Pauline Hallam, v.A.D., was married on June 21st to Mr. William Herbert Daviss, of Jersey, C.I. Miss Walker, Matron, No. 12 Park Crescent was chief bridesmaid.

Mr. W. B. Sorrell

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Sorrell, our late Basket Technical Visitor for the Southern Area. He passed away on June 16th in hospital, following a short illness.

Basket-makers in the area he visited will receive this news with a feeling of deep regret and sadness that a good friend and conscientious instructor has not been spared to enjoy the well earned retirement which he so justly deserved. Our sympathy goes out to his widow and son.

Placements

J. Carney, with the Empire Rubber Co., Dunstable, to work on a rubber moulding machine; Lot Clarke, with Messrs. Joseph Sankey & Sons, Ltd., Wellington, Shropshire, on assembly; Albert Mitchell, as a capstan operator with Messrs. Hoover, Ltd., Greenford; R. Coupland, with Messrs. Armstrong's Patents, Ltd., Beverley, on jig drilling; T. Tasker, as a capstan operator, with the English Steel Corporation, Openshaw; J. May, with Messrs. Hoover, Ltd., Glasgow, on assembly and other work; F. Bennett, with the Woodgrange Metal Stamping Co., Forest Gate, on a hand press; E. A. Ashby, on assembly and testing, with the B.T.H. Co., Coventry.

As in past years, there will be no REVIEW published for the month of August.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

THIS has been a very busy summer for St. Dunstaners and for St. Dunstan's. All St. Dunstaners in their homes—in common with the whole community—have been faced with new shortages and increased difficulties which are disappointing more than a year after the end of the war in the west and just a year, as I write, after the collapse of Japan. Sons and daughters who have been demobilised have been welcomed home but housing them, whether in their parents' homes or as they try to set up on their own account, presents very real difficulties.

New St. Dunstaners having completed their training have the same problems to solve, though St. Dunstan's Housing Department has been able to do much to help. Poultry farmers are to be deprived of some of the feeding stuffs for their flocks which have been so well maintained during the war years. All, I fear, look to the coming winter with anxiety and those are wise who have put aside and will keep on one side, a little coal for the cold months. My letter to all St. Dunstaners on this subject will be going out about the same time as the issue of this "Review."

But there are brighter signs too. In some cases, such as basket-making, mat-making and joinery, more materials have become available and our stores have been able to increase the quotas supplied to our craftsmen. A considerable number of older St. Dunstaners who went into industry are still holding down their jobs and any substantial unemployment amongst them which I feared might arise has not done so. Many of the younger generation have been settled in a variety of industrial and commercial occupations, jobs having been found, settlements effected, houses obtained, and all in spite of the most severe difficulties at every turn. After-Care Reunions on a pre-war scale have been arranged and have been well attended.

Amongst the St. Dunstaners of the second war, the Summer Term was one of serious and good work both at Brighton and at Church Stretton. There has been a good deal of entertainment, too, and I had the pleasure of attending end-of-term concerts at both places, which did credit to organisers and performers alike. West House, Brighton, has been full and so has St. Dunstan's, Blackpool, and a very large number have enjoyed—as in the old days—periods of rest and convalescence in these two homes.

Phase One of the transfer from Church Stretton to Brighton took place at Easter. Phase Two is taking place as I write. So that when these words are read, Brighton will have become our main training centre and Stretton will have closed down. I offer my congratulations and thanks to men and staff alike at both places for their co-operation and goodwill to make the first term at Brighton and the last term at Stretton memorable.

Since the last shot was fired, a considerable number of men have entered St. Dunstan's and next term will probably prove to be the peak term for numbers in training. Indeed,

we have had to take an extra house with twenty or so beds and have had to reserve a few beds at West House and at Blackpool for extra cases and odd cases, so that by a little bit of transfer and juggling, we may fit all newcomers in without undue delay. The reserve beds at West House and Blackpool will not afford training facilities but will be used in certain cases where men can do with a brief period of convalescence and at the same time vacate an Ovingdean bed for a fit trainee. The flow of St. Dunstaners from all over the world as the battles came to an end and the hospitals were cleared, was seriously aggravated by the return from the Far East of a number of ex-prisoners of war. I met many of these men at Brighton recently and considering the very hard times they have been through, thought they were a fine lot of fellows who will do well at St. Dunstan's.

The closing of Church Stretton evokes many memories. The starting up under Miss Pain as Commandant-Matron with a small group of men and staff in 1940; the years under Mr. Bankes-Williams; the advent of Mr. Nugee as our Chaplain; the last two and a half years under Air Commodore Dacre, the present Commandant, the Bursar, Squadron-Leader Bartlett, and Mr. Stanners, Education Officer. I have mentioned only these names because space does not allow of my placing on record our indebtedness to all, in whatever post of responsibility of service, who helped to make the period at Church Stretton a notable chapter in St. Dunstan's history. Many of the staff have gone to or will go to Brighton, but many also are leaving, including Mr. Stanners, Squadron-Leader Bartlett and the Reverend Nugee. The Padre goes back to his work as a Parish Priest, for he has been appointed Vicar of Crowthorne. I am glad to say, however, that he will remain an Honorary Chaplain to St. Dunstan's, giving his occasional service as opportunity offers. Mr. Stanners returns to Cambridge, the University having granted him fifteen months' leave to bring his wide educational knowledge to St. Dunstan's.

Our Trades and Professions

The other day, during a period of reflection, I found myself counting up the number of different gainful occupations or serious careers undertaken by St. Dunstaners of both wars. Without reference to any records, I counted forty-five. Obviously, as the list was made up out of my head and without any references, it is not complete, but for what it's worth as a matter of interest, I set them down in the following list:—Doctor; masseur; osteopath; parson; solicitor; barrister; director of companies; poultry farmer; boot-repairer; joiner; handicrafts; public affairs; shop-keeper; merchant; secretary; labour officer; actor; welfare officer; author; journalist; newspaper proprietor; telephonist; social service; research chemist; research worker; upholsterer; salesman; insurance; blind welfare; schoolmaster; lecturer; lecturer in law; Members of Parliaments; bookmaker; fisherman; chartered accountant; transport executive; surveyor; dog-breeder; baker; missionary; singer; boarding-house keeper; engineering; farmer and horse-breeder.

IAN FRASER.

St. Dunstaners Greet Two Queens

When Her Majesty the Queen and Queen Mary visited the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, in connection with the recent Regency Festival, a number of St. Dunstaners of both wars were given a special position inside the grounds to welcome them.

Our men had already received a warm welcome from the crowds assembled and later, the two Queens halted their progress to the main entrance of the Pavilion to shake hands and chat with each one.

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The many St. Dunstaners who met her at Brighton will hear with deep regret of the death of Miss Regidor, who gave us faithful help as an escort for many years.

Retirement

St. Dunstan's staff suffers a serious loss on the retirement of Mrs. Dunphy, who has been our Visitor in the North-West of England since September, 1930. Mrs. Dunphy has been greatly loved by all who came in contact with her and she will take with her many good wishes for her happiness in her well-earned retirement.

Mrs. Dunphy's place in the Lancashire Area has now been taken by Miss E. Graham Doel.

Southern Area Superintendent

The post of Southern Area Superintendent, left vacant by the retirement of Mrs. Paul upon her marriage, has been filled by Miss L. D. Webster.

A George Medallist

A Canadian St. Dunstaner, Major Ted Dunlop, of Toronto, who is Supervisor of Casualty Rehabilitation for the Canadian Government, and who received the O.B.E. in a recent Honours List, has now been awarded the George Medal for his gallantry in attempting to dispose of a grenade dropped by a soldier during training in September, 1943. He is an officer of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, and it was as a result of this action that he lost his sight.

More Honours

Our congratulations to P. Sheehan, of Kentish Town (new war), who has received the Oak Leaf Award for action in Burma; and to S. Worthington, of Liverpool, who has just received the British Empire Medal. He is already a Military Medallist.

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We also learn from the *London Gazette*, of the award of the British Empire Medal to Rifleman Arnold Diamond for his services to the Braille School at the Prisoners of War Camp in Germany. Our congratulations to him upon this well-deserved honour.

His friends will be interested to know that he is embarking upon a theatrical career and is playing a small part in the forthcoming London production of Anthony and Cleopatra.

On the Air

Ron Smith, of Newhaven, who was blinded in Italy, will be one of Carroll Levis's discoveries in a forthcoming broadcast. He had an audition as a comedian at the Grand Theatre, Derby, on August 24th and was immediately chosen. Of 250 people who had auditions, only one other earned a broadcast.

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Another new war St. Dunstaner, Ernest Russell, of Leeds, was one of the winners at the B.B.C. Quiz "Have a Go," conducted by Wilfred Pickles at Leeds Town Hall recently. The questions were on "Famous Men of Leeds."

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We have had a number of requests for Miss Morrah's address. It is c/o Bank of Australasia, Customhouse Quay, Wellington, New Zealand.

From "Mrs. Paul"

August, 1946.

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS,

I have just heard from Commander Smyth of the present you have given me on my leaving St. Dunstan's. It is most kind of you to think of me like this and I am very grateful for your loving thought.

This present has been sent to me in the form of a cheque which I am paying into the Bank. I am sure you will agree that this is the best thing to do while Purchase Tax continues and prices are so exorbitant. Later on I shall hope to buy something which will be a reminder of you all and the happy years I spent working with you at St. Dunstan's.

May I also say "thank you" to those of you who sent me personal presents, all of which I shall treasure.

I send my good wishes to all St. Dunstaners and hope things will go well in the future for every one of you and your families. I shall always remember you and St. Dunstan's.

Yours sincerely,

MAY SELF.

A Fire in Park Crescent

Fire broke out in the lounge at St. Dunstan's Massage Hostel at 12 Park Crescent, in the early hours of July 20th. It was discovered by Miss Barbara Williamson, V.A.D., who was awakened by the smoke. She and Matron Walker roused the eight St. Dunstaners who were sleeping there and they filed quickly and calmly downstairs into the street. Meanwhile the brigade had arrived and the fire was soon under control. The lounge and its contents, and a bedroom above, were damaged, but no one was hurt, but we sympathise with Micky Burns who lost his collection of gramophone records.

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Colonel Edwin Baker, of Toronto, a St. Dunstaner of the last war and now head of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, recently spent three weeks in Trinidad which he visited at the request of the authorities who invited him to review the position of the blind world there and to make recommendations as to a future blind welfare policy for the Colony.

Blind Person's Pension

As many St. Dunstaners will know, Non-contributory Old Age Pensions are payable on a Means Test to blind persons at age forty instead of the normal qualifying age of seventy.

In the past, some of our men were eligible for the pension and received amounts varying from 2s. to 10s. a week. Due, however, to the all round increase in pensions, their means rose above the scale laid down by the Acts and in nearly all cases the pension was cancelled.

When announcing the increase in the Old Age Pension to a maximum of 26s. weekly, the Government also mentioned there would be a revision in the scale under which the Non-contributory Pension would be paid.

As the result of this revision, a single man will be entitled to some part of the pension if his yearly income is below £128 5s., and a married man will be eligible if the joint yearly income of himself and his wife does not exceed £256 10s.

The lowest income at present enjoyed by a St. Dunstaner who is single or a widower is £169 a year and it is therefore clear that none of these men will be eligible for any part of the Blind Person's Pension. It may be, however, that a small number of our married St. Dunstaners will be entitled to some part of the pension if the joint yearly income of himself and his wife is less than £256 10s. The following examples are given by way of illustration:—

	£	s.	d.
(1) Disability Pension ...	2	5	0
Unemployable Supplement (including National Health Insurance benefits, if any)	1	0	0
Wife's Allowance ...	16	0	
Attendant Allowance ...	10	0	
Earnings or Cash Allowance	8	0	
	£4	19	0

=£257 8s. 0d. a year.

Any married St. Dunstaner coming within this category, or having any greater income, will not be eligible for any part of the Blind Persons Pension.

If there is no Attendant Allowance in issue, but earnings or Cash Allowance of 18s. a week, the result will be the same.

	£	s.	d.
(2) Disability Pension ...	2	5	0
Unemployable Supplement (including National Health Insurance benefits, if any)	1	0	0
Wife's Allowance ...	16	0	
Attendant Allowance, earnings or Cash Allow- ance	10	0	
	£4	11	0

=236 12s. 0d. a year.

Any married St. Dunstaner whose total yearly income together with that of his wife's is as above, will be entitled to a Blind Persons Pension of 4s. a week each for himself and his wife.

	£	s.	d.
(3) Disability Pension ...	2	5	0
Unemployable Supplement	1	0	0
Wife's Allowance ...	16	0	
	£4	1	0

=£210 12s. 0d. a year.

Any married St. Dunstaner whose total yearly income together with that of his wife's is as above, will be entitled to a Blind Persons Pension of 10s. a week each for himself and his wife.

It should be realised that in calculating a person's eligibility for the pension, income of every description is taken into consideration. This would include all regular amounts paid by St. Dunstan's during the year and if the man or his wife own the house in which they reside a certain amount, based on the net annual value of the house, is added to the joint incomes.

If, after reading the above, any St. Dunstaner feels he is entitled to the pension, he should obtain and complete the necessary form of application, which may be obtained from any Post Office. The Postmaster or Postmistress will assist in the completion of the form, but if any St. Dunstaner finds any real difficulty and would like our help, he should write to his Area Superintendent.

The increase in the pension and the change in the means scale takes place early next month.

Reunions Continued

Manchester, Liverpool and Lincoln meetings in July ended the first part of a crowded programme of After-Care Reunions extending over a period of three months.

At Manchester, some eighty men met at Houldsworth Hall on July 11th, for lunch, where Commander Smyth, Mrs. Dunphy and Miss Lewis were kept busy bringing old war and new war men together, and Sadie Black, now Mrs. Stokes, was there to represent the women St. Dunstaners of new war.

So many St. Dunstaners live in the Liverpool area, that two meetings had to be held on successive days. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman Luke Hogan, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Sir John Shute, Chairman of the Liverpool Branch of the British Legion, were among those who greeted the guests on July 12th and 13th, at Reece's Restaurant.

The Lincoln meeting was three days later. Mr. G. Deer, Member of Parliament for Lincoln, his wife, Councillor O. G. Deer, and Mr. Timms (Chairman), and Mr. Vincent (Secretary), Lincoln British Legion, were among those who accepted invitations to be present at the luncheon at Kirkewhite Boys' Club, Commander Smyth presiding.

Then there came a break in the long list of meetings and it was on August 13th that the next Reunion took place—this time at Leeds. Lord Normanby, known to all St. Dunstan's ex-prisoners of war and now a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council, was enthusiastically welcomed by some sixty Yorkshiremen at luncheon, at Powolny's Restaurant, at which he presided. In his speech, Lord Normanby said there was very little, given the necessary equipment, that a sightless man could not do. He needed what England most needed—determination and guts to build a world most suited to his needs. Commander Smyth, and Miss Phyllis Pease were also present, while Lieut.-Col. A. Butler, Chairman of Leeds Branch, represented the British Legion.

It was a smaller meeting at the Victoria Hotel, Sheffield, on August 14th, but only in numbers. The volume of high spirits at "this most cheerful gathering" as one newspaper described it, was right up to standard. The Lord Mayor of Sheffield (Alderman C. W. Gascoigne) who was

accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, paid a warm tribute to St. Dunstan's and its men. He was followed by Captain Matt Sheppard, Chairman of the Sheffield Branch of the British Legion, who told them of the help which the Legion was proud to give them. Commander Smyth introduced the guests and Miss A. Smith, Social Visitor, Yorkshire Area, was also present.

The following day, some sixty St. Dunstaners met at the Great Northern Hotel, Newcastle. Captain W. Appleby, member of the Council of St. Dunstan's, presided, and he introduced to the company, the Lord Mayor of Newcastle (Alderman J. A. Clydesdale), who is himself blind. Other guests were Mrs. Appleby, Mr. J. T. Cuthbertson, member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion and Mrs. Callender, of the Women's Section, British Legion.

Captain Appleby also presided at the first Scottish meeting to be held since the war. This was at the Ca'doro Restaurant, Glasgow, on August 26th. He urged his hearers to strive to take part in local government affairs. "There is a golden opportunity," he said, "for you to do fine work for the community." Owing to the fact that the Lord Provost was in Brest on that day, he was unable to be present, but Bailie Robert C. Smith, senior magistrate of Glasgow, represented him. Commander Smyth attended this meeting and, as at the other Reunions, read a message of greeting and good wishes from Sir Ian Fraser.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. Davies, Wrexham, January 8th, 1941 (only recently notified); Mr. and Mrs. S. Brydson, Gateside of Trench, June 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Harris, Fareham, July 21st; Mr. and Mrs. H. Acton, Paignton, July 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. Jennings, Bradford, August 1st; Mr. and Mrs. J. Stibbles, Pitlochry, August 1st; Mr. and Mrs. A. Turrell, Leeds, August 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Brooks, Bournemouth, August 17th; Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Salter, Lavender Hill, S.W., August 21st; Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Gidney, Morden, September 10th; Mr. and Mrs. R. Edwards, Twickenham, September 11th; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Lynch, Ruislip, September 17th.

West House Notes

July 17th gave us the first anniversary of the return to Brighton of the Melpash contingent and it was certainly a great day here. After lunch, the sun shone brilliantly; all sorts of sports took place on the lawn and all sporting sorts took part in them. Wives, Good Companions and V.A.D.'s joined in. In the evening there was a dance on the lawn, illuminated with fairy lights for the occasion.

On July 23rd, we received an invitation to a concert at the Dome, the star item of which proved to be a Quiz between teams representing West House and Ovingdean. We are proud to report that at last West House has had a victory—its representatives were Messrs. Muggeridge, Hurrell, Stubbs, Humphrys and R. Sheehan.

The somewhat patchy weather then took a turn for the better and swimming, boating and picnics on the beach were the order of the day. Swimmers might feel it worth their while to apply to M. Clements (new war), for his interesting booklet, "How to dress on the beach in three easy stages." Another enthusiasm suddenly seized the reputably staid inhabitants of West House and anyone passing our door at a *very* early hour on July 25th, would have noticed a small detachment, escorted by Sisters Pepper, Winters and Oates creeping out. This small but heroic party made it way to the Palace Pier and there boarded the *Martha Gunn*. With grim determination, they cast their lines—with grim determination they stood and fished for three solid hours—and with grim determination they withdrew—empty-handed. (If anyone has an odd worm or two they don't want will they please send them post haste to us).

August opened with two days at Goodwood. Although the weather wasn't exceptionally kind to us, trips to benevolent bookies cheered the spirits of most of us.

Highlight of the month was two play readings—"Between the Soup and the Savoury," with Matron, Miss Wakeham (Wakey) and Mrs. Pilbeam; and "The Rest Cure," with Ft.-Lt. Bayley and Sisters Carter, Ashford, Arnold, Melbourne and Costigan doing the noises off.

An exceptionally fine Brains Trust, with Mr. C. H. Tester, J.P. (Question Master); Miss Bather, and Messrs. W. Teeling, M.P., C. Whitaker, J. Hay, R. Bunn

(Borough Treasurer) and W. T. Curtis-Willson, gave very great satisfaction to an audience which, to the joy of West House, held Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Matron Pain.

Then more racing and another Brains Trust, with Orderly Wright as Question Master and St. Dunstaners Roden, Cook (new war), W. Collins, Rhodes and Muggeridge—and to bring the month to a close—more racing, this time at Goodwood.

Operation—"Busmen"

Time 10 a.m., July 10th, 1946.
Destination MIDHURST.

Off we go from Portland Place, with the usual full load of happy St. Dunstaners. This year (the 21st outing), we had four coaches and a double-decker. Let me give you some idea of what took place.

We wended our way from Brighton to Worthing picking up some of our friends en route and so on to Broadwater Green. Here we assembled on the Green to have our "photo took" as one of the lads put it. After a juggling feat by the photographer, our photo was duly "took," accompanied by the wisecracks St. Dunstaners are now famous for.

Off again through lovely Sussex, arriving at Midhurst at 12.30 p.m., with Patcham Boys' Band waiting to play us from the Grammar School to the Drill Hall. Can St. Dunstaners march! I was proud to march with them, as to the tune of "Sussex by the Sea," we arrived at the Drill Hall. In there we seated ourselves at tables decorated with flowers by the good people of Midhurst, and hey presto, sandwiches, rolls, cakes, ices and, of course, "wallop" appeared as if by magic.

Mr. A. E. Cannon, Chairman of the Committee responsible for organising the outing, extended a hearty welcome to all St. Dunstaners, old and new. The next speaker was Sir Bernard Bourdillion, President, British Legion, Midhurst, lately returned from Nigeria, who said St. Dunstan's came first in the thoughts of the people of Nigeria.

Feeding operations concluded, off we went to that lovely spot on Lord Cowdray's estate. The band, already seated and all set to start on the word "go" from our able M.C., Mr. Alf. Woolgar—so on with the dance; St. Dunstaners partnered by the local ladies.

Four o'clock and good-bye to the good people of Midhurst, and off to Chichester for tea. During the tea, Mr. A. E. Cannon asked how many St. Dunstaners present at the moment, were also present at the first outing in 1921. Eight "old stagers" answered. At this point, F. Richardson, our St. Dunstaner, in a short but brilliant speech, thanked the Chairman and Committee for such a grand day.

Off again to the Winterton Arms, Cockers Hill. Within a quarter of a mile of the lovely rose gardens we dismounted and marched to the gay tunes of the band right into the gardens.

Then Matron Ouseley, of West House, in a short, witty speech, said how proud she was to see the boys marching; and may I tell you Matron, the lads are proud to know you! On behalf of the Boxgrove British Legion, Mr. Mason welcomed all men of St. Dunstan's. The good old R.A.F. Tangmere, supplied more "wallop" and so the happy evening came to an end at nine o'clock. All aboard and off to Brighton where we all arrived safely. So ended a perfect day.

"BUSMAN."

Advanced Braille Reading Test

Congratulations to the following who have passed their Advanced Braille Reading Test during the last few months and are therefore entitled to the special prize of £3.

G. A. Prince, Newcastle; S. E. Varley, Tottenham; Blodwen Simon, Ruthin; G. Richards, Manchester; R. Young, Dorking; J. Dennick, Evesham; W. Christian, Douglas, Isle of Man; J. E. Davies, Darwen; H. Thompson, Warrington.

To West Country St. Dunstaners

St. Dunstaners in Miss Oliphant's area, will be interested to know that the man who was wanted in connection with the burglary that took place in the homes of Miss Oliphant and Miss Briscoe earlier in the year—has now been arrested. There is a reasonable chance that they will recover a certain amount of their possessions.

Promotion

Harry McAndrew, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. McAndrew, of Bournemouth, to the rank of Major, R.A.S.C., Regular Army.

Points from Letters

The Two Wars

"It seems to me that the two wars may most simply be distinguished by the words, 'First and Second Great Wars.'"

A. T. BROOKS, Bournemouth.

"I suggest the 1914 and 1939 Wars, or as an alternative, the Serbian conflict and Polish conflict respectively.

"Re classifying the two generations of St. Dunstaners, I suggest '1914' men and '1939' men. This would avoid the confusion between their actual age and term of Association with St. Dunstan's."

W. GIRLING, Southampton.

"I suggest the Kaiser War and the Nazi War—I do not propose to commemorate Hitler's name by including it."

R. NORRIS, W.5.

Young St. Dunstaners

Raymond Jenkins (Porth), has passed his B.Sc. degree examination at Cardiff University.

Betty Milner (Liverpool), has secured her School Certificate with two distinctions and six credits.

Honours for the two sons of W. Woodrow, of Alderbury. Frank, now promoted to Captain, R.E.M.E., has received a Certificate for Devotion to Duty from General Montgomery, and Arthur, a Sergeant in the R.A.C., a certificate for good service, in the King's Birthday Honours.

Marriages

On June 8th, Gilbert Burtenshaw (Walthamstow) to Nancy Jeffrey.

On March 16th, Eleanor Meckin (Workington) to Mr. Adam Daggart.

On May 25th, Marjorie Smith (Baldon Colliery) to Mr. Horace Halder.

On March 2nd, Esther Mary Thompson (Bexhill-on-Sea) to F-Lt. William J. Bolt.

Gunner W. J. Hill (Gloucester), on December 15th, to Miss Edna Taylor, at Gloucester, and on the same date, at Tonbridge, Corporal J. C. Hill (Gloucester) to Miss Winifred Crittenden.

On April 27th, Arthur Condon, Basingstoke, to Miss Eileen Mary Tillen.

On March 20th, Dorothy Audrey Dale, Midhurst, to Captain H. R. Price.

The eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duxbury, Cheadle Hulme, in Germany.

Blackpool

Starting on July 2nd, onwards to the end-of-August closing for redecorating, life at Wimbourne Place has been one long brilliant strip of successive pleasures. The hectic two months began on July 2nd, with a long coach trip around Blackpool. Of others I can only select the good from the good. Airplane trips, pier jaunts, and "Fine Feathers" at the Grand Theatre, attracted some old birds. While "Dancing Years" at the same venue convinced many that fifty-plus was the answer. All this in addition to the "breaks" at the Home; and they were plenty.

On Friday, August 23rd, Mr. Bridges, a representative of the M.O.I., toured us around the world with a "Talkie-movie" show. It was absorbingly interesting to the "full house" packed into the lounge. So thrilling and spell-binding, too, that at one point only the music of the breakers on the coral lagoons of the South Seas broke the prelude. And now I reach the peerless gem in this jewel-studded holiday time. On Sunday, August 25th, the St. Anne's branch of the British Legion threw us a coach trip to Keswick. What a day! Mr. Raymond Kershaw, President of the branch, was mainly instrumental in organising the outing. Mr. Donald Lindley, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Tom Royston, of the same branch, a well-known entertainer, acted in the capacity of guides and describers and cicerones in general. Matron Davies and Sisters Barnett, Smith, Hughes and Kershaw graced the ride. And were they in form? You're telling me! This was the itinerary in brief. 9.30 a.m. saw both filled coaches well away, through Lancaster to Carnforth for the first tea stop. Through Kendal, Windermere, Ambleside, Rydal Water, Thirlmere to Keswick.

We were sumptuously wined, dined, cigared and cigaretted at the Royal Oak Hotel—the erstwhile "local" of the Lakeland Poets. A washing-basket filled with plums was placed at the entrance to the dining-room, and we were invited to help ourselves. I cannot frame words effective enough to describe the austere, vast, lofty and verdant grandeur of the Westmorland and Cumberland scene. Surely unsurpassable. We returned by way of the Vale of St. John, passing Helvellyn, Lion and

Lamb Rock, Grasmere. Then a motor-launch trip on Lake Windermere, from Waterhead to Bo'ness, seven miles. The coaches went by road and rejoined at Bo'ness. The spot that was fatal to Seagrave, in the speed-boat trials, was pointed out to us, also the measured mile. Tea was taken in the open at Bo'ness. Away to Milnthorpe, last stop, then home by way of the Lyth Valley, reaching Wimbourne Place at 9.30 p.m. One hundred and eighty miles run, 12 hours' unalloyed joy. Supper, a little "speechifying" with all tired, all happy, and so to bed.

We left Blackpool Home resounding sepulchrally to the tread of workmen's boots, and matron and staff side-stepping whitewash, and wallowing in painty stinks.

W.E.B.

Physiotherapy Successes

The following St. Dunstan's students were successful in the recent Physiotherapy Examinations:—

<i>Massage</i>	<i>Remedial Exercises</i>
Burns, M.	Burns, M.
Evans, J.	Cooper, C.
Inness, J.	Evans, J.
Lloyd, R. (Credit in	Foster, E.
General Massage)	Inness, J.
Morris, W. G. (Credit	Lloyd, R.
in General Massage)	Morris, W. G.
Vickers, A.	Vickers, A.
Weeks, J.	Weeks, J.
<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	<i>Electrotherapy</i>
Davies, L.	Davies, L.
Humphrey, J.	Humphrey, J.
Nicolson, C.	Nicolson, C.
(Distinction)	Shea, W. G.
Shea, W. G.	Theobald, R.
Theobald, R.	

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After the Camp at Lee-on-Solent, there was a St. Dunstan's Reunion on a small scale at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Edwards, of Twickenham, when St. Dunstaners J. Gimber, C. Williams, Billy Christian, J. J. Morgan and R. Edwards, with their wives and children, met for tea. They had not seen each other for many years and when the son of J. Brooks of Sheffield turned up unexpectedly to join them also, we can guess that "a good time was had by all."

St. Dunstan's Navy Week

"My bridle arm was hanging loose, my head looked fair to go

'Twas then I thanked my lucky stars, I wore my old shako."

The words of that old song came vividly to my mind as I pictured Jim Ellis of the 10th Hussars, blinded in the N. African campaign, and minus that left hand so vital to a cavalryman, whom I met at the camp provided for St. Dunstaners by the kindness and courtesy of the officers and ratings of the Fleet Air Arm at Seaford Park, Lee-on-Solent. Well, his hand was gone, and his headlights, but his head had not gone, for with the courage of his race and the spirit which we audaciously term the St. Dunstan's Spirit, he threw himself into the activities of the camp, dancing with the members of the W.R.N.S., entertaining his comrades with song, monologue and music which he magically contrived with the aid of a piano-accordion and the three fingers that the fortune of war had left on his sabre arm. There were other members of the younger generation who attended that camp, which was also visited on the Sunday by twenty more from St. Dunstan's at Ovingdean. As one of the old generation, blinded on the Somme, I watched them with critical perception. Had there been another party behind the hedges, there was nothing to inform them that the laughing, joking, cheerful crowd on the lawn were men blinded in the two world wars. It was the second camp provided by the Fleet Air Arm at Seaford since the cessation of hostilities, but the first one I had attended as I had imagined that it was only for the men of the younger generation, and that an old-timer like myself would feel out of place. Not a bit of it. Age, rank and old regimental jealousies all vanished in the mutual fellowship, but for myself and I think most of the campers, the highlights of the week were the party given by the W.R.N.S. at their quarters at Edinburgh House, and the farewell dance on the lawn. The latter was gaily illuminated with red, white and blue fairy lamps hung in huge clusters among the trees that surround the lawn, while the White Ensign was floodlit. We could not see those illuminations, but they were reflected in the hearts and minds of all, and the echoing strains

of the dance tunes, and the subdued murmur of the dancers, was countered from the near distance by the more spontaneous and hilarious merriment from the direction of the refreshment marquees, where an impromptu entertainment group of the old school, reinforced by a couple of members of the new school, informed all and sundry that once they were together, they could and would find amusement and a mutual joy in life. Of course none of this would have been possible without the co-operation and hospitality of these practical men and women of the Senior Service, but that point was never accentuated. It was with some pride possibly, that they took us around the harbour, to show us the anchored might of Britain, and around the aerodrome, from which they had taken such a vital part in the defence of Britain.

Yet, when we met them in the various Petty Officers' messes in the evenings for refreshment, entertainment and dancing, there was only that old spirit of comradeship, that men miss so much on leaving the Service, but the men of St. Dunstan's have retained, and will retain throughout the years. I must close this account of first impressions by returning to my very first introduction to a new boy, and once more the lines of that old song ring through my mind:—

"So let this be my epitaph, whene'er they lay me low—

Here lies a jolly light dragoon, who loves his old shako."

Jim at his second camp, with three years' experience in the dark world, got bravely mounted, trusting himself to the leadership of Jack Dawkins, Spl-Major of the "Blues" rode back into camp with the same flourish that will bring him and many of his comrades back each year to Mrs. Spurway's Camps of Peace. Yet it is not merely the Spirit of St. Dunstan's, but that greater Spirit, which, guiding the destinies of all men, has seemed to have an especial care and use for the men and women of this isle. I shall therefore, not wait the final call to bivouac, but wait my second call to camp and that call to arms by the friends of the W.R.N.S., who lifted the weight of twenty-five years and made me feel as young as these young men of the new brigade!

J. RADFORD.

Church Stretton Notes

All good things must come to an end and the Church Stretton phase of St. Dunstan's history is now closed. At the moment of going to press, a good many people are still working hard clearing up and organising the final move to Brighton.

The Breaking-up Concert was given on August 1st for service personnel and on 2nd for trainees, staff and escorts and friends from the village. It would be impossible to mention all the items in this excellent show, but an appreciative audience made it clear that this really lively and well balanced production more than justified all the hard work that had been put into it.

For the Tea Dance on August 4th, we had Sammy Ash and his band, from the Grand Casino ballroom, Birmingham, and on Monday, a splendid Breaking-up Party with the band of the 6th Batt. R.E.M.E., given by Denehurst and Tiger Hall. On Tuesday a farewell party was given at the 27th M.U. R.A.F., Shawbury.

Many trainees have left us lately, having finished their training. We wish them all good luck and hope that we may meet again some day at Brighton. Gerry Wood left on July 12th to work with the Hamptone Upholstery Co., Carey Street, Northampton. Chris Wilkinson left on July 13th to work on assembly with Messrs. Armstrong Patents Ltd., Beverley, Hull. Ron Phillips left on August 5th to work as a telephone operator with Independent Producers Ltd., Regent Street, and George Eustace as telephone operator with Morrison Engineering, Purley Way. Joe Hamilton started work on August 8th as an upholsterer with Messrs. William Rhodes of Nottingham, and John Mudge has returned to his old firm, the Metropolitan Water Board, Lee Bridge, Hackney, as telephone operator. Jack Newton will be starting work as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. English Steels Ltd., of Manchester. Jack Martin will work a plastic press with the Streetly Manufacturing Co., Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, and will start work with Tom O'Connor when a house has been found.

Bob Forster started on August 19th as telephone operator with Barclays Bank, Leeds. He and Miss Lomas are getting married in September and we wish them all happiness.

Josh Williams has finished training on assembly and returns home awaiting placement. Jimmy Dear will be going shortly to work on assembly with Messrs. Williams and Williams of Hooton, near Chester. Gerald Brereton goes as telephone operator to Leys Malleable Castings Ltd., Colombo Street, Derby, and Chris Williams began work on August 12th as telephone operator with the Ministry of Labour, Kingston-on-Thames. Ernie Woofenden started work on Assembly on August 26th with Messrs. Gent & Co., Leicester. Geordie Lund starts work soon as a telephone operator with the Ministry of Labour, West Hartlepool. Fred Dickerson is waiting at home to take up work as telephone operator with the Petroleum Board. Ron Birkin started work on assembly with G.P.O., Birmingham on August 19th. Jan Solowej and Michal Tybinski have finished their training as capstan lathe operators and are waiting for accommodation before taking up their jobs. George Roake, John Fenny and Frank Haves await placement on assembly, and George Dalton and Jack Horton on the capstan.

Space will not allow us to mention the names of staff and helpers who are leaving us, but we would like to say goodbye and thank you to them all, and all of us who have spent some happy years at Church Stretton can say, "I count myself in nothing else so happy, as in a soul remembering my good friends."

★ ★ ★

Congratulations to the following who have recently passed their tests :

Typing.—C. Wilkinson, J. Dear, L. McKinnon, A. Hold, R. Owen, C. Stafford, R. Turner, W. Smith, A. Chamberlain, H. Davis, J. Taylor, C. Minaar, J. Hopkins, R. Hales, A. Guyler.

Braille Writing.—A. Finney, J. Sheridan, W. Burns.

Interline.—E. Gould, J. Lewis, E. Tucker, A. H. Brown, W. Burns, W. Freeman, E. Simpson, M. Tybinski, J. Sheridan, S. Bogicevic.

Advanced (Interpoint).—H. Thompson, H. Crane, F. Hawes, N. Hopkins, Z. Stepek, K. Johnston-Stewart, W. Veness, N. Daniel, G. Brooks, C. Williams, J. Cruse.

Moon.—G. Roake, W. Carr.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

By the time these notes appear in print, a goodly contingent of our members will be endeavouring to uphold the excellent record they achieved in Harrogate in 1945. Furthermore, one of our most loyal helpers will have reached her home in New Zealand by this time. Miss Morrah has served the club well and truly for many years and all our best wishes go with her to New Zealand.

During the last few months, an excellent number of members have enjoyed their Saturday afternoon bridge to the full. The league programme is well in full swing, and I will not attempt to predict the winners. Several duplicate matches have been played and on each occasion everyone had a very pleasant afternoon.

For the first time, we paid a visit to the Pinner Club and we hope to meet again later on at our Headquarters. Brighton is also becoming an acquisition to our Bridge activities and we are indebted to the Howe Bridge Club for their three very pleasant afternoons. So for Harrogate. This is our fifth visit and like all good things our visits continue to be most enjoyable and I trust that this year will be equally successful.

R. P. C.

News from South Africa

Congratulations to E. Denny, of Pretoria, who at the Annual General Meeting of the South African Legion of the British Empire Service League, was unanimously elected a Life-President, for service rendered over a period of many years.

Denny's son, Terence, has now been demobilised after six year's service overseas with the South African Air Force. He was recently married in Cairo to Miss Barbara Bennett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Taylor Bennett, of the British Consulate, Istanbul.

Miss Winifred Stonelake, who will be remembered at London Headquarters and at Tembani, Cape Town, when she was on Mrs. Chadwick Bates' staff, was married on June 19th, to Captain G. Ribbink.

★ ★ ★

When L. W. Calvert, of Ormskirk, spent a week in London recently with Percy Ashton, they visited the House of Commons where Calvert, for the first time in twenty-eight years, met his brother, who is a commissionaire there.

Births

BARRETT.—On April 13th, to the wife of M. E. Barrett, Leribe, Basutoland (new war), a son—Charles Morgan.

CORRIGAN.—On July 5th, to the wife of J. Corrigan, of York (new war), a daughter—Susan Megan.

FOSTER.—On June 14th, to the wife of H. Foster, of Aldershot (trainee), a son—Clifford Ian.

HIGGO.—On March 18th, to the wife of L. A. Higgo, of Pretoria North, Transvaal, South Africa (new war), a son—Lionel Alfred.

LEE.—On July 17th, to the wife of J. Lee, of Gledhow, Leeds (new war), a daughter—Valerie Ann.

MILLER.—On August 22nd, to the wife of E. Miller, of Wimbledon (new war), a son—Edward William John.

MORGAN.—On July 9th, to the wife of F. T. Morgan, of Bristol (new war), a daughter.

SHED.—To the wife of G. Shed, of Streatham Vale (new war), on September 5th, a son—Robert.

SHOTTER.—To the wife of W. Shotter, of East Ham (new war), on August 24th, a daughter—Carol.

WOMACK.—On August 11th, to the wife of C. Womack, of Leicester (new war), a daughter—Susan Winifred.

Marriages

ALEXANDER—OWENS.—On August 6th, E. A. Alexander, of Bournemouth, to Miss G. E. Owens.

CHAPPELL—EVANS.—On July 27th, A. T. Chappell (new war), to Miss Betty Evans, of Woodford Green.

FORSTER—LOMAS.—On September 14th, R. Forster of Leeds, to Miss Joyce Lomas.

FULLARD.—On April 11th, A. Fullard (new war).

HAMILTON.—On September 5th, J. Hamilton, previously of Ireland and now of Nottingham (new war).

NICCOL—GARDINER.—On July 27th, T. Niccol (new war), to Miss Gardiner, recently of Church Stretton.

' In Memory '

Sergeant Joseph Armstrong, *Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death in April, of J. Armstrong, of Melbourne, Australia, who was wounded at Messines in February, 1918, and came to us in December of that year. He returned to Australia the following March. As there was hope that he would regain his sight, he did not train, but these hopes were not realised and he eventually took a little tobacco business.

He was a popular member of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Club and never missed the Friday meetings.

The news of his death came to us through Mrs. Bond, of Western Australia. He died very suddenly whilst on holiday.

Private James Waddell Thom, *Australian Imperial Forces*

We have also just heard with deep regret, of the death of another of our Australians, J. W. Thom, also of Melbourne, which occurred in April, 1944.

He was wounded at Hamel, in 1918. After training with us as a poultry farmer and mat-maker, he returned to Australia in August, 1920, but came back on a visit six years later to take up boot-repairing. Many St. Dunstaners will remember meeting him then.

He leaves a widow and three daughters, to whom we send our sincere sympathy.

1st Class Petty Officer Patrick O'Callaghan, *Royal Navy*

We record with deep regret the death of P. O'Callaghan, of Cork, which occurred suddenly at his home on April 10th.

He served in the Royal Navy from 1895 until 1918, but although his sight was seriously affected by his war service, he did not come under St. Dunstan's care until February, 1931. For some years he had led a quiet life.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. O'Callaghan, whom he married only two years ago.

Four St. Dunstaners, Messrs. Driscoll, Condon, Keegan and Horgan attended the funeral which took place at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Cork, on April 12th.

Private Edward Roberts, *14th Royal Welch Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of E. Roberts, of Rhyl, on July 2nd.

After serving from December, 1914, he was discharged with very defective sight in March, 1919, but he did not come to us until 1923 when he trained as a basket-maker. He appeared to be in excellent health and was, in fact, helping with the harvest when he complained of feeling ill. He was taken home and a doctor called, but while the doctor was with him he passed away.

Six members of Kinmel Toc H acted as bearers at his funeral. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack. A press correspondent wrote: "'Ted' Roberts was undoubtedly one of nature's gentlemen . . . His blindness brought out inherent qualities which enriched and infected those with whom he came into contact. He sang his way through life."

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and daughter in their loss.

Quarter-Master Sergeant William Strachan, *Scots Greys*

We record with deep regret the death of W. Strachan, of Motherwell.

Serving from September, 1914, until March, 1919, he came to St. Dunstan's in the autumn of the same year, and he trained as a masseur, continuing in this profession, in hospital as well as private practice, until his death. For a very long time he was a member of the Massage Advisory Committee.

His death occurred on April 16th, after a comparatively short illness. St. Dunstan's Massage Advisory Committee was represented at the funeral by Mr. Gordon Fisher.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Strachan and her three children.

Corporal Frederick Williams, *Northumberland Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of F. Williams, of Chiswick.

He had been a St. Dunstaner since 1927, but he served in the Northumberland Fusiliers from 1897 until 1909; then, as a reservist, he was again called to the Colours in 1915. He was discharged in 1919 and his sight went gradually a year or so later. While out of the Service, he was a member of the Metropolitan Police Force, from which he was discharged in 1922.

Although he was not in good health, his death on August 7th, was very sudden.

The funeral took place at Acton Cemetery, Mr. T. Gidney representing St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and son.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is extended to the following:—

MCCARTNEY.—To Mr. and Mrs. H. McCartney, of Belfast, whose baby son, Charles, passed away on July 15th.

HIGSON.—To R. Higson, of Wigan, who lost his wife on August 16th.

HALLAM.—To W. J. Hallam, of Edgware, whose wife passed away on March 14th last.

On the eve of my departure for New Zealand, may I express my warm appreciation of the many kindnesses shown to me by the Matron, Staff and fellow-St. Dunstaners at No. 8 Park Crescent, where I have been staying for the past few weeks, during the first part of which my wife was with me. In her tragic death and my sad loss, your sympathies have been a source of great help and to all I would like to say "thank you." I shall take back with me happy as well as sad memories of my stay.

July 25th, 1946.

J. R. MCGILL.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

One Brotherhood

THE old and the new merge. Except where a proper understanding of a news item requires it, I have asked the Editor of the REVIEW to stop distinguishing between St. Dunstaners of the two wars. Sometimes it is necessary to distinguish between the old and the young for the sake of making a point clear, but the sooner we become one brotherhood of St. Dunstaners, with no age barriers between us, the better.

A correspondent on another page describes the merging of the two generations at the Conference of St. Dunstan's Physiotherapists, held at Brighton recently, and I have observed myself and learned from reports that the same process has been at work in reunions throughout the country.

During the winter months we shall be giving full consideration to the reunion programme for the next year, taking into account some of the difficulties which have emerged in our first series of post-war meetings. For example, a very much larger number of our men now go to daily work in office or factory throughout the land than was the case before the war, and it is difficult for such men to attend Reunions on an ordinary week day during business hours. We shall have to consider whether Saturday afternoon would be a good time, though this of course aggravates the difficulty of getting suitable accommodation, and possibly the travelling problem as well. So far as London is concerned, the average Londoner has more opportunities of meeting fellow St. Dunstaners and members of the staff, because he is near to Headquarters and we hope, when the opportunity comes, to develop a London club similar in many ways to the present Bridge Club, but including a number of wider interests, such as music, sport, etc. In general, the After-Care Reunion for London will take the form of a grand Annual Dance. Often, in the past, we held this during Armistice Week. Our first post-war rally of this kind will occur some time in January and particulars will be given in a later REVIEW.

One of the Originals

There are not many left now—though my wife, Miss Goole and Miss Coultate are amongst them—who started working for St. Dunstan's in the earliest days.

Miss E. Wood, who has now retired from St. Dunstan's service on account of having reached the age limit, has been working with us and for us for just about thirty-two years. Blind since her early years, she started teaching typing to Captain Lowry, who was probably the first officer blinded in the first war, then became a typewriting and braille shorthand

teacher at Bayswater, the first St. Dunstan's hostel, which opened in January, 1915. After teaching for many years, Miss Wood subsequently joined the After-Care Department as a shorthand-typist, but she was much more than this, for over the years she came to know hundreds of our families as her friends and to conduct a regular correspondence with them on behalf of the department. Miss Wood also helped me throughout these years by reading memoranda and other matter that arrived in braille and putting letters and notes into braille for me.

In her retirement, Miss Wood intends to occupy herself teaching shorthand at a London County Council School and doing some work for the National Library. Many early St. Dunstaners will remember Miss Wood and all will wish her good luck.

Cloak and Sword

I have read two good tales in recent weeks on the Talking Book. Intrigue, jewels, rogues, heroes, lovers and historical romance are the ingredients, extremely well put together by Rafael Sabatini. "Scaramouche," recorded by the Americans, is one; "King in Prussia," recorded by our own Talking Book studios in London, is the other. I recommend them both.

IAN FRASER.

Notes and News

W. Evans, of Tamworth, has been made an honorary member of the North Staffs Old Comrades' Association, and its members are raising enough money, by means of concerts, etc., to buy him a guide dog.

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Arthur Finney, of Finchley, was a prize-winner in the B.B.C. "Merry-Go-Round" cash quiz, which was broadcast on September 20th and 22nd. He chose "Lucky Dip," always the most sporting choice.

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Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Watson, of Shirebrook, and their son, Ernest, were awarded third prize by the Blackwell Rural District Council in a competition open to all gardeners in the district.

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It is reported that Professor Algie, a blind New Zealander, is the principal political research worker and adviser of the Opposition Party leaders in the New Zealand General Election.

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Congratulations to two St. Dunstan's telephonists who have just completed twenty-five years in their job. They are H. Manning, with the London Hospital, and P. Garrity, with the British Legion Headquarters.

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Lambeth Borough Council Library Committee are to buy a talking book, so that book recitals can be arranged for blind people in the borough.

Pen Friend Wanted

We have heard of a young Dutch ex-Serviceman who lost his sight in the early part of the war who would like to correspond with someone in this country. He speaks Dutch, English and German fluently. The Editor will be glad to give his address to any St. Dunstaner who would like to correspond with him.

"Those Were the Days"

With the help of several kind friends, Mr. and Mrs. J. Baxter, of South Holmwood, have sent St. Dunstan's the sum of £25 earmarked for the Deaf-Blind Watch Fund. Practice dances are held fortnightly in the Village Hall, and at these are learnt the old-time dances.

Harry Davidson records are used with Joe at the door "taking the money."

Armistice Day

*O will ye not be silent then
When the phantom host comes nigh;
O will ye not, for one brief space
Be still as they muster by?
Ye have your music, song and dance,
For ever at your side;
But will ye not be silent then,
For the sake of those who died?*

*What things ye love in pleased life
Of comfort, joy and ease;
What things ye boast in freedom's name,
Ye owe it all to these;
Your very life, in truth ye owe
To those ye sent to die.
O will ye not be silent then
When the phantom host comes by?*

R.J.V.

Efficiency Medal

New conditions covering the award of the Efficiency Medal (Territorial-Militia) and Clasps have recently been announced, and as these may be of interest to ex-Territorials of long service, details are given below.

The Efficiency Medal and Clasps may now be awarded to Officers and other ranks of the Territorial Army, the Auxiliary Territorial Service, and to other ranks of the Supplementary Reserve (Category A and B), who were serving as such on September 2nd, 1939, irrespective of whether their service was commissioned, other rank, or a combination of both.

Briefly the qualifications are as follows :—

- (a) Twelve years' continuous service (embodied war service from September 3rd, 1939, may count two-fold).
- (b) A minimum of 12 trainings (an embodied period of two months will count as two trainings, but not more than two trainings may be credited during any year reckoned from January 1st to December 21st).
- (c) Service as a regular army (emergency commission) Officer may count as qualifying service provided that the Officer was serving in the ranks on an auxiliary forces attestation on September 2nd, 1939, and was embodied under Army Order 158 of 1939.
- (d) Service in the Royal Navy, the Regular Army, or the R.A.F. during the embodiment of the Territorial Army may count provided that it immediately followed embodied service in the Territorial Army.
- (e) Officers and other ranks who, during the 1939-45 war were discharged owing to wounds or illness contracted on service, and who voluntarily re-enlisted during the period of embodiment will not be regarded as having broken continuity in service, although the period between discharge and re-enlistment will not count.

Any St. Dunstaner who feels that he may be eligible for either Medal or Clasp should submit his claim to the Record Office of the last Unit in which he served, the address of which can be obtained from any Post Office or Police Station. The claim should show the man's personal number, Army number, name in block letters, and address to which reply can be sent. No other medal or award should be claimed at the same time, and the envelope should be clearly marked "Efficiency Medal only."

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Leslie Douglas, of East Ham, and H. Miller, also of East Ham, both of whom were employed during the war as telephonists at Messrs. Tate & Lyle, have received the ribbon of the Defence Medal.

West House Notes

Racing was again the order of the day at the beginning of this month. West House very well represented was in fine fettle on the Lewes Race Course. The weather was our only dead loss.

One of the most outstanding evenings of the month was a really first-class concert, arranged by W. T. Curtis-Willson and Jack Sullivan, with the "stars" from the Grand Theatre. We were pleased to have the Commandant and Mrs. Paul, Commandant and Mrs. Dacre, Matron Pain with sixteen of the Ovingdean boys, and the Matron of the Royal Sussex County Hospital with us for this excellent and much appreciated concert. A splendid vote of thanks was given by R. E. Larcombe, with, at the same time, a welcome from West House to Ovingdean. The amplifiers were tried out for the first time.

A happy occasion was the christening of St. Dunstan A. Robinson's son in our Church. Canon James officiated. The Church was beautifully but simply decorated by Miss Pooley. The organ was played by Mr. Kirby. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Orderly Ball for giving up so much of his free time to play for us each Sunday.

Brighton Races again on the 18th and 19th, and it was generally agreed to hire boats instead of charas. on our next visit to this course. West House luck, like the weather—let's not discuss it!

On the 21st we were invited to a Grand Concert by the Buffs, held in the Royal Pavilion. Another splendid party.

The Conservative Party invited a party of six men and staff to a dance at the Hove Town Hall, an invitation which was eagerly accepted.

Sunday, 22nd, saw us playing a most earnest game of "Housey Housey," with Sister Melbourne and Orderly Wright at the tote, and Sisters Chaddock and Gleed collecting the bets. As can be imagined, this game was enjoyed by all.

A team of eight from the Southdown Motor Company came along on the 26th for a Darts Tournament, which St. Dunstan's won with quite a score in hand, and so this month came to an end.

New Wine in Old Casks

"New wine in old casks?" Yes! that was the predominant theme of the concerto which was performed in the Winter Garden of St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, on September 7th by the band of St. Dunstan's Physiotherapists. New strings of both sexes were introduced into this ensemble, and who better could have accomplished this delicate task than the highly respected conductor, Sir Ian himself, who, with gentle though firm and forthright control, wielded his baton with superb confidence and shepherded them into the fold. I feel certain that he has made the "New Wine," or "New Strings" sweeten the old cask and enrich the ensemble, for assuredly the latter will be invigorated by these fresh contacts. Thus it was that the recently qualified were given a very hearty welcome into the old established band of "one time Masseurs," now known as "Physiotherapists"—some have found a second way of pronouncing it, with a different meaning—that by the way.

In an effort to bolster up the work of the committee to the advantage of practitioners as a whole, with emphasis on hospital work, that live wire and bundle of wit and humour, Paddy Boyce, referred to the newcomers as the "Kids," and he might have added—"among the goats," as I whispered to one of the latter at the time. He meant well, however, and it was taken in very good part by these young additions to our company. An interesting discussion followed, and we agreed with Paddy, 'midst much hilarity, that with whisky at twenty-five and nine-pence a bottle, and the thoughts of taking unto themselves a spouse, our new friends would find it somewhat tough going on the remuneration offered by hospitals and like institutions, based on what the Chartered Society have thought fit to consider a reasonable return for services rendered. The chairman, S. A. Chambers, said that the committee would certainly consider the matter. Some of the new brigade aired their views in no uncertain manner, and we can expect greater activity from that quarter when the committee commences its deliberations.

Our good old friend, Mr. Mace, expounded on the history and growth of the Chartered Society, and how it came about that we blind Physiotherapists came to be

recognised as worthy promoters and exponents of the arts of massage and electrotherapy.

These young people most decidedly should know how the Society to which they belong arrived at its present position, and what part they could and should play to implement its work and revitalise its all too lethargic outlook upon the urgent needs of its members. Certainly it wants a good strong twist of its tail. The advice of Mr. Mace was sound, namely, to join the branches of the Chartered Society and endeavour to keep its Council constantly aware of the interests of the male section, up to the present somewhat neglected. The meeting was extremely enjoyable, and it was fun and games meeting one's old friends after a lapse of seven years.

Earlier in the proceedings, the members stood in silence while the first verse of Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen* was recited, as a mark of respect for those of our colleagues who had passed away during the intervening years. Particular mention was made of Edmund Toft and Scott Peary, both of whom, in more ways than one, had contributed yeoman service to St. Dunstan's and to the massage community in particular.

EDWARD SLAUGHTER.

New Committee

At the Conference many matters of professional interest were discussed, and the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee was elected as follows: G. Cock, J. M. Colley, S. A. Chambers, R. Ettridge, C. J. R. Fawcett, A. G. Fisher, L. Howell, G. A. Jolly, W. Morris, F. Ripley, W. T. Scott, P. J. Sparkes, S. C. Tarry (*Chairman*) and F. Winter.

Presentations

Presentation of cheques, which had been subscribed for by the members as tokens of the esteem in which physiotherapists and masseurs held Mr. Mace, Physiotherapy Superintendent, and Miss Goole, Secretary to the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee, were made by S. A. Chambers, retiring Chairman.

The following reply from the recipients has been received:—

"As we know that all the Physiotherapists who kindly contributed to our presentation were not present at the Reunion and so

were not personally thanked by us at the time, we would like, through the medium of the REVIEW, to express to them all our deep appreciation of this most generous presentation and the kind thought behind it. We value the friendship and goodwill of the St. Dunstan's Physiotherapists very highly, and are very proud to have been associated with them and wish them continued success in the future.

ALFRED MACE.

ELEANOR GOOLE."

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Mr. Percy Way delivered an address in which he congratulated the older members and urged the new that they had much to learn from experience.

A telegram from the Minister of Health, Mr. Aneurin Bevan, was received in the following terms:—

"I am glad to learn that you are reviving your Annual General Meetings. The services which Physiotherapists render to the community are most valuable. I wish St. Dunstan's physiotherapists all success in their work.

ANEURIN BEVAN."

★ . ★ . ★

Post War Credits

Any St. Dunstaner who is over the age of 65 and has in his possession Certificates of Post-War Income Tax Credits for any of the years 1941/42, 1942/43 and 1943/44, may now obtain payment of the Credits by completing a form of application which can be obtained at any Post Office and forwarding the form and the Certificates to the Inspector of Taxes at the address shown on the oldest Certificate.

Only the Credits for the three years mentioned can be cashed, and only by men over 65 years of age or women of over 60. St. Dunstaners who are under the age of 65 and hold any of the Credits should carefully retain the Certificates until such time as the Government issue further instructions as to payment.

★ . ★ . ★

In the B.B.C. feature, "Yours Sincerely," on October 8th—an exchange programme between this country and America—a letter from Sir Ian Fraser was read by Lionel Gamlin. It was in reply to an American listener's query about the Talking Book,

Industrial Injuries

The National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1946—the text of which has recently been published—completely changes the law of compensation for workers who meet with accidents in the course of their employment, and as details have already been given in the REVIEW of the general National Insurance Scheme, St. Dunstaners may also be interested—from their own point of view if they are in an insurable occupation, from the point of view of their children, or just generally—in having details of the new Industrial Injuries Scheme.

The Act is intended to cover all those in regular employment, manual and "white collar" workers, directors and office boys alike, and as it sets up entirely new machinery for dealing with claims for injuries, it is extremely long and complicated. There is also the further difficulty that the Minister of National Insurance has power to make a great many regulations dealing with all manner of specific points—regulations which have not yet been made.

One of the regulations which the Minister has power to make is for adjusting the benefits of any person in receipt of a pension or allowance payable out of public funds, and until this regulation has been made it is not possible to say definitely how the new Act will affect St. Dunstaners. A close watch is, however, being kept on any regulation which may be made, and in this connection St. Dunstaners will recall the note in the June REVIEW, setting out the reply given by Mr. James Griffiths, the Minister of National Insurance, to Sir Ian Fraser's request that a most solid assurance should be given by the Minister that it was not his intention to make regulations which would in any way diminish the benefits which are due to disabled soldiers, sailors, airmen and others under the Royal Warrants, Orders in Council or similar instruments. In his reply, the Minister stated that while it was not possible to make a general or detailed statement, he would give two examples to show just what the Government were prepared to agree and would then ask the House to leave the matter over for the moment, and take his word for it that the Government were giving it anxious and urgent consideration. He then continued: ". . .

Take a person who is in receipt of a war pension and might sustain an industrial accident. It is not the intention in any way to interfere with the separate basic benefits accruing to him under both Schemes. Similarly, a war pensioner or an industrial pensioner under the new National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Bill becomes entitled in due course to a retirement pension. He can draw both in full. Those are two decisions which are clearly in line with what I have said." This is a definite assurance and everything possible will be done to see that it is properly carried into effect.

The Industrial Injuries Act is framed somewhat on the lines of the Royal Warrants, Orders in Council, etc., dealing with the award of War Disability Pensions. The degree of disablement is assessed by comparing the injured man with a person of the same age and sex whose physical condition is normal and the assessment is not, as is the case with the present Workmen's Compensation Acts, related in any way to any earnings the man may have been receiving at the time of the accident or any moneys he may subsequently be able to earn. The assessment is by percentage with a maximum of 100 per cent., and awards may be provisional or final.

When an insured person is injured through an accident at work, or is found to be suffering from what is thought to be an industrial disease, he or she will obtain a Certificate from the panel Doctor, and on the issue of such a Certificate the Insurance Officer for the District will have to decide whether the accident arose in the course of employment. If he finds that it did, the worker will be entitled to benefits. If the Officer finds otherwise, there is a right to appeal to a special Tribunal.

If it is finally held that the accident occurred in the course of employment, or the disease was in fact an industrial disease, the worker will, in the first place, be entitled for a maximum period of 156 working days to an injury benefit for every day he or she is absent from work because of such injury or disease. Unless the period is twelve days or over the first three days will not count for benefit. The injury benefit is 45s. per week.

At the end of the injury period the worker will, if the injury continues, be eligible for

the following weekly benefits (100 per cent figures being given in each case):—

	£	s.	d.
Industrial Disablement Pension ...	2	5	0
Unemployment Supplement (payable where the beneficiary is, because of his industrial injury, likely to remain permanently incapable of work) ...	1	0	0
Special Hardship Allowance (payable in certain cases where less than 100 per cent. in issue) ...	11	3	
Constant Attendance Allowance (where warranted) ...	1	0	0
Ditto, exceptional cases ...	2	0	0

When the assessment is less than 20 per cent., an Industrial Disablement Gratuity will be granted instead of the Industrial Pension, the maximum amount of the gratuity being £150.

When the Injury Benefit is in issue, the following Family Allowances will be paid:

	£	s.	d.
Wife or adult dependant... ..	16	0	
First or only child (other children being entitled to an Allowance under the Family Allowance Act)	7	6	

Where the Disablement Pension is in issue and the beneficiary is entitled to the Unemployability Supplement, or is receiving approved Hospital treatment, similar Family Allowances are paid; otherwise no Wives, or Children's Allowances are issued.

If death results from an industrial injury the widow will receive for life, or until she remarries, a pension of 30s. a week if she has a child in her care, is over 50 or subsequently attains the age of 50, or she is incapable of self-support. In any other case the pension will be 20s. a week. A gratuity will be paid on re-marriage of an amount equal to 52 times the weekly rate of the pension to which she was then entitled. An allowance of 7s. 6d. will be paid in respect of the first or only child to the person having the care of such child.

Contributions for the benefits to be derived under the Act work out at a few pence per week for the various categories of insured persons, according to age and sex, but they will not be paid separately. They will be included in the one stamp payable in respect of the whole general Insurance and Health Schemes, which are expected to come into force some time in 1948.

The total weekly amount payable by an employed person under all the Schemes will be, in the case of a man, 4s. 11d. (increasable after five years to 5s. 1d.), and in the case of a woman, 3s. 10d. (increasable

after five years to 4s.). For these contributions he or she will be eligible for all the benefits of the Industrial Injuries Act, plus the benefits under the general schemes, which include Unemployment and Sickness Benefits, Maternity Benefits, Widow's Benefits, Retirement Pensions, Death Grants and free Health Services.

The benefits to be given under the Industrial Injuries Act as set out above will apply to all cases where the injury or disease is due to an industrial accident, after the Act comes into operation. St. Dunstaners who are already receiving compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Acts will not be incorporated into the new scheme, and will therefore continue to receive their compensation from their previous employers or their Insurance Companies, and the compensation will be reducible by earnings, as in the past. Power has, however, been conferred on the Minister to make regulations whereby a person in receipt of Workmen's Compensation, and who, because of his injury is permanently unable to work, shall be entitled out of the National Insurance Fund to the 20s. a week Unemployable Supplement, and, where Constant Attendance Allowance is warranted, an Allowance up to a maximum of 20s. a week, with a special Allowance of 40s. a week in severely disabled cases. It is expected the Minister will make these regulations before the Act comes into operation.

Ovingdean Notes

Ovingdean has been strengthened this term by the happy reunion with old friends from Church Stretton.

Summer returned on the 28th September for our Sports Day, and made the Sports meeting doubly welcome. Through the kindness of Miss Tanner, Head Mistress of Roedean School, the Sports took place on the playing fields of Roedean, which, with the colourful summer frocks of the ladies, bright marquees, blue sky and sunshine, formed an ideal setting.

The organisation, under Mr. Jarrold, was excellent and the enthusiasm of the entries most heartening. By the time the tenth event was reached there were several competitors on the records for the athlete of the day, but steadily "Kiwi" and Danny Pretorius drew ahead, leaving the last few

events to accord the winning points to "Kiwi" for the individual trophy.

From the beginning, Croxley Green and Northgate House ran neck and neck for the House trophy, and added considerably to the interest throughout the afternoon, until Northgate, gaining a handsome lead in the Throwing the Discus event, soared away to win the House trophy with 53 points.

Northgate House

The number of trainees at Ovingdean at present being in excess of sleeping accommodation, Northgate House at Rottingdean has been opened and, as mentioned above, has proved itself to be a worthy addition.

Seasonal changes have come with the new term in an added number of Talks. Lectures by Mr. T. J. Roberts, B.A., and Mr. Coleman, of the W.E.A., are to be followed by a further series on "How to Enjoy Music," "Authors you should Know About" and "Comment on International Relations." The Discussion Room has become a popular rendezvous. Additional speakers have been enjoyed on such subjects as "The G.P.O. in War-time," "The Work of the Palestine Police," "Behind the Scenes at the B.B.C.," and "With Shackleton to the Antarctic."

Outside entertainment has by no means been forgotten, and already the dances, concerts and visits to the theatre and cinemas of Brighton are in full swing, and in their popularity a heavy tax on transport.

Apart from mines going off on the beach, gales threatening to make Ovingdean drag its anchor, and storms in the middle of the night, Ovingdean still preserves its peaceful mien!

Test Results

Preliminary.—E. Rowe, R. Turner, R. Owen, H. Davis, R. Craddock.

Writing Test.—R. Lawrence, D. Juner, P. Stubbs, T. Wilson, J. Brereton, W. Veness, H. Foster, J. Lewis, L. Constable, H. Hocking, G. Durant, E. Gould, S. Connor, R. Richardson, L. White, N. Daniel, A. Paulson, C. Stafford.

Typewriting Test.—J. Gannon, N. Nolde, W. Miller, R. Pope, A. Dodgson, P. Wood, D. Watkins, B. Parker, J. Milowcznk, R. Collins.

Moon Test.—P. Ingram (West House), L. Coulson, R. Chamberlain.

Advanced.—T. J. Floyd, S. C. Mackay, A. T. Brooks (West House), S. Lidiard.

“ In Memory ”

Corporal Hugh Arthur Smith, Heavy Anti-Aircraft, Royal Artillery

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of H. A. Smith, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, which occurred at his home, on September 14th, at the age of forty-two.

A Territorial before the war—he joined at the age of sixteen—he was called to the Service at the outbreak of war in 1939 and he served in the defence of Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, and then London. He was injured in a London air-raid, and as a result he lost his sight. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1945, returning home early this year, but he became seriously ill in August and he passed away after a painful illness borne with great courage.

A number of St. Dunstaners attended the funeral at Ryde on September 17th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and family. He leaves three sons and four daughters.

Births

BOSELEY.—To the wife of H. Boseley, of Liscard, Wallasey, on September 5th, a daughter—Sandra Elizabeth.

KELLY.—To the wife of W. Kelly, of Workington, a son—Kenneth David.

KINGSNORTH.—On October 2nd, to the wife of E. M. Kingsnorth, of Southgate, a son—Roger Kent.

MORGAN.—On September 4th, to the wife of D. Morgan, of York, a son, whom, we learn with deep regret, died a few hours after birth.

NEWALL.—On September 24th, to the wife of H. Newall, of Manchester, a daughter—Barbara Ann.

PARMENTER.—On August 21st, to the wife of D. Parmenter, of Catford, a daughter—Lynne Margaret.

THORNTON.—On October 8th, to the wife of Walter Thornton, of Birmingham, a son—Andrew John.

Marriage

TAYLOR.—On September 14th, T. Taylor, of Bury (trainee).

Golden Wedding

Our very special congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Capstick, of Westfield, Lancaster, who celebrate their Golden Wedding on October 24th.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations, too, to the following, who are celebrating their Silver Wedding anniversary :—

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Hazel, of Merton, August 15th; Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Smith, Derby, September 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. W. Bentley, Gorton, Manchester, October 1st; Mr. and Mrs. B. Ingrey, Beddington, October 29th; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Luker, Wandsworth, November 12th.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club on the Air

Our fifth visit to Harrogate clearly showed all of us that our many friends there do all they can to beat each successive year with their hospitality. A record number of fourteen members made the journey with three escorts, whose help was most invaluable. All the organising work was in the capable hands of John Morrison and A. Field, and once again our warmest thanks are due to them. The whole visit was carried out in perfect harmony, and the hospitality and cordiality of our Yorkshire friends will long be remembered by all of us.

We took part in six events, one team of four finishing fourth in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* competition, and in the other matches did not do quite so well as last year. All the games were very keen, however, and all the members should derive much help from their experience of playing against such excellent teams, but the chief item of interest was the fact that Harry Gover, the founder of the Club, was invited to take part in the Northern News Reel in the Northern Regional programmes. Accordingly, the world had the pleasure of hearing Harry's voice on the wireless on the Saturday evening and also on Sunday morning. His broadcast was a credit to the Bridge Club.

And so now for the winter programme.

Efforts are being made to add many duplicate matches with other clubs for our programme, for I feel we shall be able to obtain better results only by continual play with other clubs.

R.P.C.

Wanted

LEATHER MUSIC CASE in good condition. Please state price.—Williams, Edenmoor, The Rise, Sheringham, Norfolk.

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ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 333—VOLUME XXXI [New Series] NOVEMBER, 1946

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY.
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Mavro

MR. E. E. MAVROGORDATO died early this month, and my wife and I and Mr. Askew attended his funeral to pay the respects of St. Dunstan's to one who had worked for us with unstinting kindness and devotion for many years.

Mr. Mavrogordato was a well-known writer of reviews for *The Times* Literary Supplement, and in addition he was for many years Lawn Tennis Correspondent to *The Times* itself. In an Obituary Notice on November 8th, 1946, *The Times* said:

"His descriptions of some of the greater matches on the Centre Court were the work of vivid conception. He occupied also a distinctive place in the world of winter sports, particularly ice-skating, subjects on which he contributed many articles of great charm to *The Times*.

"He only gave up his reporting of lawn tennis when his eyesight began to fail so that he could no longer accurately follow the game, and an interest which had been close to his heart for many years received added impetus. For over 30 years he had been a voluntary worker at St. Dunstan's, having joined the staff in 1916 as a guide and reader. In 1924 he became a member of the executive council and contributed much from his personal knowledge of individual blinded men as well as from his rich store of wisdom and literary experience. 'But it was,' in the words of Sir Ian Fraser, 'as friend and confidant of the young blinded officers in whose hostel he worked that he made his greatest contribution, for he was a man with whom you could talk things over and who told you the truth—sometimes even the hard truth—and you felt better for it. There are rare men whose primary service to mankind is that you can tell your troubles to them and get comfort and a warm but restrained affection. Mavro was one of these.'"

Mr. Mavrogordato was most regular in his attendance at St. Dunstan's Council and Committees, and none gave us more valuable help. The Council of St. Dunstan's and those St. Dunstaners who knew him personally, lose an old and trusted friend, and the whole of St. Dunstan's is the richer for the life and work of a wise counsellor.

Helen Keller

Miss Helen Keller, with her constant friend, Miss Polly Thompson, is visiting England and Europe for a few weeks to see how our blind world is getting on. Miss Helen Keller is one of the best-known figures in the United States, having spent a long lifetime in the

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service of the blind, and particularly the deaf-blind, as writer, publicist and lecturer. She has been totally blind and totally deaf since she was a child. The method of teaching her to appreciate things around her, and to speak a language she has never heard, with a remarkable vocabulary, is one of the educational wonders of our time.

Miss Keller is an old friend of ours, for my wife and I have had the pleasure of meeting her many times in England and the United States, and we were delighted to welcome her back to our country and give her a dinner party at the House of Commons, where she met representatives of ex-servicemen and of the blind world and of the various political parties. She also made a visit to Brighton, and, interviewed by a *Daily Telegraph* reporter afterwards, she said: "We have nothing like this in America." Miss Keller told me that she proposes to go back to the United States to tell them of the situation over on this side, and particularly of the difficulties which European blind organisations are experiencing, so that America may help to revive their much needed activities. We all wish her good luck in her mission.

What's in a Name?

There is nothing much in a name by itself. What matters is what the name stands for. Take the name of St. Dunstan's. It is a wonderful name, a magical name, a name that opens doors, a name that makes you feel good in the best sense of that word. Why does the name of St. Dunstan's stand for so much? Because it represents so much.

For over thirty years the name of St. Dunstan's has become increasingly well known in our Country, in our Empire and throughout the World. It stands for courage amongst the men and women who form the brotherhood of St. Dunstan's. It is synonymous with Victory over Blindness, it spells achievement, purpose and success.

There are many—the majority indeed—who have enjoyed material success, but there are spiritual values also. I know many who have not made much money, who have not been prominent, but who have nevertheless become extremely good fathers of their families, have brought up the most vigorous and attractive children, and have made a happy home. That indeed is success of the highest quality.

Sometimes it has been the help of St. Dunstan's that has been of prime importance. Sometimes it has been the example of another St. Dunstaner, sometimes merely the spirit of St. Dunstan's.

The name of St. Dunstan's is the heritage of all who have belonged to it or worked for it. Let us guard the name well and keep its sound sweet in the ears of men.

A Problem of the Peace

On another page in this issue, under the heading "From the Chairman's Post-bag," is a most interesting letter from a German blinded soldier. I have acknowledged this, but have not yet answered it.

I print the letter in full first of all to publicise the German blinded soldier's desire to enter into correspondence with a British blinded soldier. If any St. Dunstaner wishes to correspond with him I will gladly give him his address.

Secondly, I should be most interested to know what is the reaction of the ordinary St. Dunstaner to this appeal. I may say that with regard to the Talking Book it would not be practicable to supply him with a machine, because it would be no use to him without ready access to the records, which could not very well be sent to Germany for the use of one person.

Nevertheless, this practical difficulty does not answer the moral question which my correspondent raises. Some may think that we should do nothing to help the reconstruction of the blind world in enemy countries. Others may think that the world is one world, and that we must all make friends some day, and that to encourage understanding is to encourage ultimate peace. What do you think?

The Editor will be very interested to have a letter from you on this subject. Please make it as brief as possible.

IAN FRASER.

Thanks to Church Stretton

At a recent meeting of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's, a resolution, proposed by Lady (Arthur) Pearson, D.B.E., President, and seconded by the Marquess of Normanby, M.B.E., was passed "that the thanks of St. Dunstan's Executive Council be extended to the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Church Stretton and to the Council's Clerk and Officers and to the residents of Church Stretton for their kindness and hospitality to the blinded men and women of the Services, and the staff of St. Dunstan's, from August, 1940, to August, 1946, during which time St. Dunstan's Training Centre was established in Church Stretton."

Those who were at Church Stretton will be especially pleased to know that their happy days there have been commemorated by the presentation of a plaque to the Church Stretton Town Council, with the following words on it:—

"This is to place on record the thanks of St. Dunstan's, whose Men and Women, blinded in War Service, enjoyed the hospitality of Church Stretton during their Training here between the years 1940—1946."

Election Successes

Congratulations to T. Irvine, of Moffat, and H. White, of Stalybridge, who have been successful in the recent local Council elections. "Chalky" White won a seat for the Labour Party in the Lancashire Ward of the Borough of Stalybridge—the first time he had stood as a candidate—and our 1914-1918 St. Dunstaner, Tommy Irvine, topped the poll in his first candidature for Moffat Town Council.

St. Dunstaner Honoured by Chief Scout

H. T. Christal, of Castletown, Isle of Man, has been awarded the Medal of Merit by the Chief Scout for his services to the Scout Movement. He has now returned to his duties as a teacher at King William's College, Isle of Man.

Reader's Digest

A few more copies of the "Reader's Digest," in braille, have been offered to us, and the Editor will be glad to hear from any braille reader who would like his name to be put on the waiting list.

New Year's Dance

As announced by the Chairman last month, the first post-war Reunion for London will take the form of a Grand Dance.

This will take place on **Thursday, January 23rd**, at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place (close to Marylebone Tube Station), from 7.30—11 p.m.

It must be understood that the Dance is primarily for those who can return to their own homes the same night, as it will not be possible to book any accommodation in London.

Tickets will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort (it is much regretted that children under 16 cannot be included), and application for tickets should be made to Commander Smyth, at Headquarters, *as soon as possible* and in any case not later than December 31st.

Well done, Warrington

In a Braille Reading Competition, organised by the National Library for the Blind, Northern Branch, two St. Dunstaners, Elsie Aldred of Warrington, and J. W. Lawson, also of Warrington, won the first and second prizes respectively in Class III (readers who have lost their sight during the past seven years). Congratulations to them both.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," November, 1916:

"At St. Mark's Hospital we hear that there are over forty-five men preparing to come along to St. Dunstan's. They are all of them from the 'Big Push' and from what we have seen of those who have come up on Thursday afternoons they are both promising and excellent fellows. The sooner they come the better we shall be pleased. A party of Australians, blinded in the war, paid a visit to the Workshops and the Poultry Section about the middle of the month and displayed keen intelligence in understanding the work that the boys were doing and the various ways in which it was being taught. They struck a morning when the boys were particularly jubilant and were indulging in songs, accompanied by loud rat-tats, which, while cheering, are also a little disturbing."

Ovingdean Notes

It is now "full house" at Ovingdean and its satellite houses, for there are 163 trainees in training, and the list of men waiting to come in is gradually being absorbed.

The Braille Hut, which had to be vacated early in October because its construction would not stand up to the gales so well known at Ovingdean, is being reconstructed and we hope to have this building ready again by the end of November. In the meanwhile, the lift ("no more than six persons at a time") is overworked carrying staff and trainees up to the Winter Gardens, our temporary Braille Room.

A new section has been added to the Handicraft Department—plastic ornaments, trinkets and fancy goods. This should be an absorbing additional hobby and promises to be extremely popular.

Ovingdean will soon have the advantage of a Dental Centre of its own. This is being set up in the building and the cost of the equipment is being met out of the generosity of the Aylesbury Fund for War Blinded.

Another gift we have received is from Mrs. McEuen and her Ajax Hospitality Committee, who have sent us enough towelling dressing gowns to be able to give two to each of our handless men and women.

During the month we have received many invitations to events outside St. Dunstan's. A particularly enjoyable evening was spent at the King Alfred, Hove, on the invitation of Messrs. Walter Gillett's, who welcomed the small party of St. Dunstaners to their Annual Staff Dinner and Dance like old friends. Each St. Dunstaner was presented with a cigarette case on leaving as a memento of a most happy occasion.

The Trades Union Annual Congress, held at Brighton this year, gave visitors' tickets to us and several trainees attended the Congress. They heard the Prime Minister's speech and particularly enjoyed the spirited discussion by delegates on Foreign Affairs.

The R.A.F. Association Festival at the Albert Hall, on September 22nd, was attended by five R.A.F. trainees, accompanied by the Commandant.

John Taylor took advantage of his trip to London for the El Alamein Reunion to arrange a visit to his M.P., who entertained him to tea in the Members' Cafeteria

and gave him and his escort a seat in the Press Gallery, from where he heard both Mr. Churchill and Mr. Attlee speak in the Foreign Affairs debate.

Charles Stafford, on a recent week-end home in London, went to Covent Garden Opera House and boldly asked for the Manager. Through his initiative 27 St. Dunstan's trainees went up to London on November 6th and heard the world-famous tenor, Beniamino Gigli, and the San Carlo Opera Company in "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci."

A new series of Oxford University Extension Lectures have begun on "The Modern Novel" and "Background to International Affairs."

Weekly evening talks by visiting speakers from the Southern Railway, the N.F.S., and the Colonial Office conclude the list of varied entertainment and leisure occupation which are now available here.

This autumn has also brought to us the honour of receiving several distinguished visitors, among whom were Miss Helen Keller, Air Chief Marshal Sir John and Lady Slessor, Sir Brunel Cohen (who is a member of St. Dunstan's Council), and Lord Normanby (also a member of St. Dunstan's Council).

Test Results

Preliminary.—J. Swann, D. Watkins, C. Walters, T. Cooper, R. Pope, R. Page, R. Bickley.

Typewriting.—R. French, G. O'Shea, E. Rowe, W. Griffiths, C. Austin, E. Eccles.

Advanced.—P. Stubbs, G. Durant.

Braille Writing.—S. Lidiard, S. Bogicevic.

Moon.—E. Tibbett.

Telephony Device

Devised by St. Dunstan's Industrial Training Officer, Mr. Cheeseman, a gadget has been produced and approved by the General Post Office which indicates easily when a line is cleared. The raising of a small stud indicates a call and its flush position indicates the free line. It has now been installed on St. Dunstan's training boards.

The Comforts Fund

From Matron Pain we hear that as a winding-up gift from the Comforts Fund, 357 postal orders of 10s. have been despatched to the sons of St. Dunstaners.

Miss Helen Keller at St. Dunstan's

On Monday, November 4th, Miss Helen Keller, the famous blind-deaf authoress, paid a visit to St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean. Accompanied by her companion, Miss Polly Thompson, she spent a full day with us, visiting each section and showing the greatest interest and pleasure in everything that was shown to her. She had tea at Belmont, the Girls' House, but let the girls give their own impressions of that afternoon.

First, Eileen Gould: "Great excitement was caused at Belmont on Monday, November 4th, when we were given the honour of entertaining Miss Helen Keller to tea. Envious eyes were cast in our direction when the news spread around Ovingdean, but the scene at the Girls' House was one of excited preparation for the arrival of our guest. What with reporters interviewing us in search of a "scoop" and frantic efforts to brush the dust from our party manners, we felt somewhat worried whilst waiting the arrival of our guest and her companion, Miss Polly Thompson.

"But over tea conversation flowed as if it was an everyday occurrence to have such a great celebrity with us. Miss Keller was so interested in all our activities here, and her companion told us some very interesting stories, both of their travel and life in America."

Maureen Lees takes up the story: Miss Thompson translated to Helen just who we three girl trainees were and she was particularly interested to learn of Zophia's part in the rising of Warsaw. Later, Zophia recited St. Joan's speech, Miss Thompson interpreting to Miss Keller word by word, action by action, each word and movement that Zophia made.

"It was indeed an honour to us trainees at Belmont to meet this grand woman, who had obtained practically every degree, and who still is giving the benefit of her experience to backward countries."

And Zophia Kniazak, our new Polish friend who hopes to continue her training as a dramatic actress, says: "Anything which I could say about Helen Keller would be but 'a drop in the ocean.' I can only bow my head in admiration to her."

Irish Reunions

With the Irish Reunions, our series of post-war meetings came to an end. At Cork the Lord Mayor, Mr. M. Sheehan, was the guest of honour who, welcoming the St. Dunstaners present, said he desired to express a little of the thanks he felt for all that St. Dunstan's had done for so many of his countrymen. On the following day, the Dublin meeting took place, where the chief guests were Major J. J. Tynan, D.S.O., and our old friend, Mrs. Strain. At Belfast we had Mr. R. W. Grant, M.P., Minister of Health, Northern Ireland; Major Sutherland, Area Secretary, British Legion; and Lady Turner. When the gathering learned that Mr. Panton was shortly retiring, a pleasant little ceremony took place. Those present made a collection and procured a pipe, which Lady Turner presented to Mr. Panton as a token of their goodwill. Tribute was paid to the work of Mr. N. S. Macauley, Area Representative, who was present, with Commander Smyth, at all the Reunions.

A Car Hire Service

A seven-seater Humber car, chauffeur driven, can be hired from the Vincent Car Service, 447 High Road, Willesden, N.W.10, which is under the personal supervision of our St. Dunstaner, Ronald Vincent. Prompt attention is available at all times. Telephone: Day, Willesden 2358 and 0875; night, GLAdstone 3904.

Miss Lloyd

Her many friends will be interested to know that Miss Lloyd, O.B.E., for many years in charge of the Braille Room, has been appointed Librarian at Preston Hall, Maidstone, the well-known sanatorium run by the British Legion. She writes that it is a most interesting job and she is extremely busy carrying out much reorganisation.

★ ★ ★

Where are you going, young fellow?

Have you tried to figure it out?

What! waiting for an opportunity?

Well, look around. There's plenty about.

You're not alone in this boat, young fellow,

And numbers will likely swell.

So use what you have left, my boy,

And the future will all be well.

BILL DIES, of Canada, in "All Clear,"
the magazine of Baker Hall.

From the Chairman's Postbag

KWEILIN, KWANGSI, CHINA.

October 12th, 1946.

DEAR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

You must have received my note, passed on to you by Miss Garvie, of the National Library for the Blind at Westminster. In that note I mentioned my wish to get from you information concerning how the blind can learn carpentry and poultry-keeping. For these arts are useful to the Chinese blind, and are also feasible in China. We Chinese blind are in constant suffering for the lack of a reliable means of livelihood. So when I come to know the two kinds of work practised by the blind in your organisation, I have felt that they are at least a temporary salvation for the blind of our country. Therefore, please give me as much information as possible about these two subjects. I beg your pardon for my request. But from what I have experienced, I know that the people of your country are always kind to others, and are always ready to give aid to those who are in distress, even if they are not of the same nationality. It is simply with this experience that I dare to write to you. Please give me an answer as soon as you can.

Cordially yours, YIH AN-SHEN.

THE AMERICAN ZONE OF GERMANY.

October 10th, 1946.

"You will be astonished to get a letter from a person you do not know. So I hope you will allow me to tell you how it came about that I made up my mind to write to you.

I am a German, 34 years old. In July, 1941, I was wounded in Russia, and I have been blind since. Before the war I had been employed in the export trade, and therefore always interested in languages. After I had realised that I should remain blind for my life, I had to decide what profession I wanted to take up. I decided to become an interpreter. After many difficulties and obstacles were overcome, I started studying English as my chief subject, in Spring, 1942, at Vienna University.

In Summer, 1944, I learnt from different sources that there existed a hospital in Germany for English and American prisoners of war. So I decided to request the German army for allowing me a stay at this hospital, in order to get into touch with English-speaking men of all races. My request was complied with, and I came to

the hospital of Bad Soden, together with my wife, in October, 1944, and could stay there till the end of the year 1944. For me this was the most interesting time I ever had, because I met very nice boys there from all over the world, and I was able to improve my spoken English quite a bit. It was in this hospital that I first came into touch with your book, 'Whereas I was Blind.' I read it with very great interest, as you can well imagine. Thus I learnt a lot about you and Britain's blind ex-service-men. Already then I was sure that I should write to you some time after the war. With the war over, I could have written to you some months ago. But somehow I could not quite make up my mind to do so. For several times I heard your name being mentioned in the B.B.C.'s Pacific Service, to which I regularly tune in. Some days ago now, I heard your own voice in this Service. You spoke in 'Freedom Forum.' The question was discussed there: 'Is it possible that the Conservative Party will come back again?' You stood together with another Conservative against the Labour M.P., Mr. Silverman. I listened as carefully as possible to your voice. And after that I decided finally to write to you. 'Well,' I hear you say, 'what is this foreigner aiming at?' To this question I must answer frankly that I really have something in mind with this letter.

My first aim is to get into touch with you and through you with one or two other blind men in England who wants to have letters exchanged with a German blind man. I think we Germans must try as hard as possible to get out of this terrible isolation in which we have been during more than a decade. I know that many men in foreign countries have great prejudices against us. But somehow or other we must try to convince them that not all of us are criminals. We want to live in peace with the whole world, and exchange ideas and goods with them."

My second aim is rather personal I am afraid. But I apply to you, as a fellow blind man, because I hope that as such you will understand my situation. As I have told you, I am studying the English language for the purpose of once becoming an interpreter. As far as I know, I was the first blind man in Germany to take up this study. So I have got to show that a blind man is able to do the job. And I

have the firm will to struggle through. At Bad Soden Hospital now, I listened very often to the "talking book," since I had to censor all the records coming from America and Great Britain. I have found out, during this time, that this device would be the best help for me and I decided to get one. But it is quite impossible to get it here. So I take the liberty of asking you if you would help me to one. I should be very much obliged to you if you would give me your advice in this matter.

I should like to ask a third question.

As a student of the English language I want to go to England for a time in order to widen my knowledge and deepen my understanding of English life and culture. To earn a living for my wife and me I should have to take up a job in England. Do you think that this would be possible? Would you encourage me to such a plan?

I should be very glad to receive a letter from you and I hope you will forgive me for having troubled you like that. But I thought that you, being blind yourself, would understand my difficulties and obstacles, and from your book and the way of talking I could gather that you would help me if you could. And above all, in spite of all the terrible experiences we had to go through during the last years, I still do believe in humanity. And it is this belief that in the end urged me to write to you.

With this I close my letter with the best wishes for you and all the blind ex-servicemen of Great Britain.

FRIEDRICH WALTER.

El Alamein

Thirteen St. Dunstaners who took part in that great battle were present at the El Alamein Reunion at the Albert Hall on October 23rd. They were: P. B. Baker, A. E. Baldwin, H. Briggs, W. Chitty, C. Cooke, I. Darling, E. R. Ettridge, E. Foster, C. Hobbs, B. Greatrex, C. Nicholson, G. Mortimer and J. Taylor. All were presented to Mr. Churchill and Lord Montgomery.

The *Daily Express* in particular gave our men a good show and two days later, in their leader column, reprinted a message which Bert Baldwin and Ron Ettridge gave to their reporter, as they left the hall:

"We have learned something from our wounds. We do not think we have lost anything if people have learned a lesson and decide that they will try to live together, work together and never engage again in killing each other."

West House Notes

We were all delighted to see Matron Ouseley on her return from a month's well-earned holiday. During her absence Matron Lang came to look after us, and we all wish her good luck in her new post as Matron at No. 8 Regent's Park.

On October 6th a Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held in our Chapel. The Reverend H. Kingston officiated.

Tickets were given to us by the Bakers' Association on October 8th, when a party of thirty went to their dance at the Pavilion. The following night the same number enjoyed a dance at the Regent, at the invitation of the R.A.O.B.

For days we noticed Sister Melbourne walking around with a worried expression on her face and a pencil and paper in her hand. The result was a "Quiz," in which the Good Companions, represented by Miss Blencowe, Miss Cockshott, Miss Jacon and Mrs. Austin, beat our men, represented by Messrs. Muggeridge, Warren, Mann and Chelton. Sister Melbourne's face brightened as she read her questions—how easy when you know the answers!

Lt. Bayley and his party gave a splendid reading of "Night Must Fall," and the following Tuesday the Mavis Ward Players cheered us with an excellent concert.

On another evening, Mr. A. Ramsden came and read us some short stories, which he himself had written and broadcast, telling us of his experiences while big-game hunting. Matron Ouseley read his "Black Mamba" and gave us all the creeps! Then followed a recital of well-known gramophone records, given by Mr. Laidlaw and Mr. Richardson.

West House was very proud to learn that we have at last beaten the Hove Bridge Club, in a match played at Hove on October 26th. St. Dunstan's was represented by R. Coles, P. Nuyens, H. Gover and F. Winter.

The R.A.F. Association have guaranteed us a darts match every Thursday evening, and a darts and domino match has been arranged between Ovingdean and West House on October 31st.

June Temple would like to thank those friends who contributed to her leaving present. She has asked us to tell them she bought a very nice fountain pen, on which she has had engraved: "To June, from her friends at St. Dunstan's," and the date. She sends greetings from Switzerland.

“In Memory”

Chief Petty Officer Harry Strudwick, D.S.M., *Royal Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. Strudwick, of Esher, who was blinded in 1943 and came to St. Dunstan's the following year. In addition to the loss of his sight, he had suffered also the loss of a leg.

Earlier in the war he had been awarded the D.S.M. for conspicuous gallantry while on Russian convoy duties on board H.M.S. *Bulldog*.

His health was not good; it prevented him taking up serious occupational work, but his cheerful courage never failed.

The cremation took place at Woking, seven brother petty officers bearing the coffin.

He was a single man and our sympathy is extended to his father and brother.

Private James Hodkin, *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of J. W. Hodkin, of Shaldon, at the age of 53.

He lost his sight at Ypres and joined St. Dunstan's in 1916, where he trained as a basket-maker, and he carried on with this trade in Shaldon, where he had lived for many years.

The funeral took place at the Church of Our Lady and St. Patrick, after Requiem Mass.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Hodkin and her daughters.

A.B. William Nelson, *Mercantile Marine*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of one of our old St. Dunstaners, W. Nelson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

When war came in 1914 he was serving as a deckhand on H.M.S. *Victory*, having been in the Mercantile Marine for some years. His ship was blown up by a mine and his sight failed. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1920 and was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker, but of recent years had done little outside work.

His health had deteriorated and he passed away at his home, after a period in hospital, on October 9th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and her family.

Births

CAMPBELL.—On October 31st, to the wife of P. Campbell, of Reading, a son—Patrick James.

GLOVER.—On November 10th, to the wife of W. Glover, of Hall Green, Birmingham, a son—Robert William.

KEMP.—On October 11th, to the wife of S. Kemp, of Redruth, a daughter—Sarah Jane Elaine.

PARKER.—On October 26th, to the wife of C. Parker, of Grantham, a son—Gordon Douglas.

WOOD.—On October 15th, to the wife of W. C. Wood, of Atherton, near Manchester, a daughter—Jennifer Mary.

Death

NEWALL.—We extend our deep sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. H. Newall, of Manchester, whose baby daughter, Barbara Ann, died on October 13th. She lived only nineteen days.

Marriages

HUMPHRIES—MILES.—On October 19th, J. Humphries to Miss Marjorie Miles. A fellow student trainee, Reg. Theobald, was best man.

RUSSELL—HOLMES.—On November 2nd, Norman Russell, of Huddersfield, to Miss Vera Holmes, late of the A.T.S., whom he met at Church Stretton.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Ollington, of Earlsfield, December 20th. Congratulations.

Remembrance Day, 1946

On Sunday, November 10th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, with four St. Dunstaners, P. Conlin, M. Hackett, F. Mandy and P. Owen, marched to the Cenotaph with the official contingents to lay a wreath on behalf of the men of St. Dunstan's throughout the Empire.

On the evening of November 11th, a number of St. Dunstaners, including trainees from Ovingdean, were present at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall.

Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson

The Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson will be held this year in the Chapel of the Ovingdean Home, at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, December 8th.

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, a deputation of St. Dunstaners will proceed to Hampstead Cemetery from Headquarters to place a wreath upon Sir Arthur's grave. Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew, at Headquarters.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

We will Remember Him

TWENTY-FIVE years ago I was writing for the *St. Dunstan's Review* a personal memoir of Sir Arthur Pearson, who died on December 9th, 1921.

If time has softened the poignancy of that event the quarter of a century that has passed has also given the opportunity for reflection and more thoughtful appreciation of his work. Then it was the immediate loss of a personal friend that overwhelmed. Now it is rather the measuring of the effect of his life in the blind world that comes to mind, warmed by a personal recollection of some characteristic incident.

I measure his achievement in the blind world as the greatest in our generation and probably of all time, for he revolutionized our outlook and the view of the outside world about us, and his gospel has spread all over the Empire and to many foreign lands, carried for the most part by his immediate friends from amongst the early St. Dunstaners.

The older St. Dunstaner may see Sir Arthur in his mind's eye as he talked to him in his office about his affairs with rare understanding and sympathy. The younger St. Dunstaner is the poorer for the lack of this experience, but though, perhaps, he does not realise it absorbs something of Sir Arthur's humanity and spirit in the life of the St. Dunstan's of today.

We will remember him and his good works, which flourish with St. Dunstan's and amongst St. Dunstaners everywhere, and at this time, will send our best wishes to his widow, Lady (Arthur) Pearson, our President, and his son, Sir Neville Pearson, who have helped us in so many ways as the years have passed, and are still most active in our Councils.

Staff Changes

Commander A. D. D. Smyth, D.S.O., R.N., desires to give up active work and has asked to be relieved of his position as Welfare Superintendent and will be leaving us at the end of this year.

Commander G. H. Paul, R.N., Commandant at West House, Brighton, will also be leaving at the end of this year, so that two important vacancies have occurred on St. Dunstan's staff.

Mr. A. Mackay, M.A., has accepted the post of Welfare Superintendent and has started work. Mr. Mackay, who is aged 37, is a graduate of Edinburgh University and before the war had some years' experience in the teaching profession. On the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Armoured Corps and was then transferred to the Royal Indian Army Service Corps and later to the Army Welfare Service on its formation, in which he became a leading administrative officer and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His war service took him to India, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, North Africa, Italy and Greece.

Mr. L. Fawcett, aged 31, who will become Commandant at West House, was an established Civil Servant in the Customs Department before the war. During the war he served in the Royal Navy Air Arm as pilot, ending up as Officer in Charge R. N. Establishment, Seafield Park, with rank of Lieutenant, where he undertook administrative and welfare duties. He will be known to a few St. Dunstaners who went to Mrs. Spurway's Camps at Seafield Park in 1945 and 1946. He starts his duties at West House early in January.

Four other members of the staff retire on account of seniority, after very long service. They are Mr. A. E. Howlett, who after working for the National Institute for the Blind for a few years, joined St. Dunstan's staff in 1915, as an engineer. His knowledge of braille production, braille writing machines and the many mechanical devices used by blind people has been invaluable and during the last few years he has played a large part in finding, with Mr. Bennett, factory jobs which can be undertaken by St. Dunstaners and has adapted machines and introduced safeguards for their use. The blind world owes a lasting debt to Mr. Howlett for imaginative and practical inventions. Mr. S. W. Fobbs retires after twenty-eight years, having joined us in March, 1918, in the Accountancy Department. Mr. Fobbs rendered devoted service on the accountancy and business side of St. Dunstan's, rising to the post of Chief Accountant. At various times he had to deal with many financial, insurance and other matters for St. Dunstaners, whom he helped greatly. Mr. T. H. Panton was the first of the Mat-making Home Visitors and St. Dunstaners who followed that handicraft all over the country have been grateful for his valuable help since September, 1919. Miss M. L. Norman came to us in May, 1920, to start the Boot Sundries Department at Hanover Gate and became the Head of our Quartermaster's Stores. She was one of the best known and best liked characters at Raglan Street.

The Council of St. Dunstan's is making a presentation to each of these retiring members of the Staff as well as to Commander Smyth and Commander Paul, as a token of our thanks to them for their services, and as a reminder of their association with us. I have already had the pleasure of presenting a clock to Mr. Panton and a silver cigarette box to Miss Norman.

All our readers will join in expressing their very sincere thanks to all those whom I have mentioned, for the valuable services which they tendered in their respective spheres and will wish them the very best of good luck in the future.

Christmas Wishes

Lady Fraser and I express to all our St. Dunstan's friends our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

IAN FRASER.

The Blinded German

The letter from the German blinded soldier which we printed last month has aroused much interest.

Of the letters we have so far received, the writers are almost unanimous in their wish to help this blinded German.

J. Proctor, of Saltdean, writes: "I think St. Dunstan's should, as far as possible, be international, and we ourselves are apt to forget how very fortunate we are." A. Gordon Fisher, of Glasgow, follows the same line of thought, when he says: "We St. Dunstaners owe all our happiness, no matter how clever and successful in business, to first and last our very first entrance into the care of St. Dunstan's. We are in a world of our own, in many ways happier than the sighted world, and I would suggest that we forget the troubles of the world and try and create a world of the blind, by assisting in every way possible any of the blind in any other country, enemy or otherwise. We can, by many examples, show the sighted world how to forgive enemies, making friendship the item of importance."

W. Girling, of Southampton, and Walter Thornton, of Birmingham, find the answers in the Bible: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us"; "For the greatest of these is Charity."

M. I. McFarlane, a Canadian St. Dunstaner living at Worthing, also turns to a Bible teaching: "Love thy neighbour as thyself" and adds: "St. Dunstan's is a beacon and not a blackout; therefore we must and shall show him the light. There shall be among us no nationality, no barriers of class or religion. Let him come within our circle, and let us visualise St. Dunstan's as a cosmopolis."

Another Macfarlane, telephonist "Jock," of Ilford, is brief and to the point: "Let us forgive but not forget," he says. "Let Sir Ian give him all the advice possible, but for God's sake keep him away from our shores as we have enough refugees in this country at present."

Ovingdean—Not Church Stretton

Will St. Dunstaners please note that all correspondence and braille literature should be addressed to Ovingdean from now onwards, and not to Church Stretton.

Mr. Churchill to make Presentation to Chairman

The Editor has kindly allowed me space to refer to the presentation St. Dunstaners are making to Sir Ian Fraser, on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth anniversary of his becoming Chairman of our Organisation.

The response to the letter I, as chairman of the Presentation Committee, sent out to all St. Dunstaners in the British Isles and the Overseas organisations, has been most gratifying, and the splendid sum of a little over £350 has been received to date.

The Committee considered that as a Dance is being given to St. Dunstan's men and their wives living in and around London on January 23rd next, this function would be a fitting occasion on which the presentation could be made, especially as we were informed that representatives from Ovingdean and West House would be invited, in addition to officers and men in training in London.

The Committee felt that the following St. Dunstaners should also be invited in order that the gathering might be representative: one from Scotland; one from Wales; one from Ireland; two from the Midlands; two from North-West England; one from North-East England; one from the Eastern Counties; one from the South-West Counties; and one from the Southern Counties.

It is therefore proposed to have a ballot and the persons drawn will be notified, and accommodation arranged for them and their escorts.

Mr. Winston Churchill has very kindly offered to make the presentation. The Committee felt that he, as a great war leader of the two wars, would be a particularly appropriate choice, and they are indeed gratified to feel that in his busy life he will be able to do this.

The Committee have ascertained that Sir Ian lost some of his table silver when his house was demolished by an incendiary bomb in 1944, and have learned that it would give him and Lady Fraser great pleasure to receive from his St. Dunstan's friends a gift of this nature. It was, however, felt that it would take many months, in these difficult times, to obtain table silver which Sir Ian and Lady Fraser would like and treasure, but that another article—a token of the presentation as a

whole—should be given on the occasion of January 23rd. It is, therefore, proposed to present him with a walking stick on that day, suitably engraved, which will be a daily reminder to him of the regard in which he is held by his St. Dunstan's friends.

N. A. RAMSDEN.

After Forty Years

Our warmest congratulations to W. C. Carnell, of Bampton, who on November 21st married Miss Ethel Leyshon, of Lynn, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

This is the sequel to a friendship which began nearly forty years ago, when our St. Dunstaner, who was working in the mines in the Aber Valley, met Miss Leyshon, who then lived with her parents at Caerphilly. Then the war of 1914 came. Billy went to France and was blinded at Loos. At about the same time, Ethel went with her parents to the United States.

Billy came out of the Army and was trained at St. Dunstan's; then he settled down as a successful poultry farmer in Kiln Cottage, Bampton, Devon. Meanwhile, Miss Leyshon made numerous efforts to trace him and eventually she did so. They have corresponded and three years ago agreed to be married. War-time restrictions made an immediate journey to England impossible, but at last Miss Leyshon obtained the necessary permission and she arrived in the *Queen Elizabeth* on her first "peace-time" return voyage.

They were married at the Methodist Church, Bampton.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," December, 1916.

The College Annexe is nearing completion, and the men who are to reside there will find a charming matron in Miss Power and a delightful companion in Mr. R. K. Huskinson.

The new chapel on the lawn is approaching completion and our Hon. Chaplain, the Rev. E. N. Sharp, has arranged a Consecration Service, to take place on Thursday, December 14th. It will be followed by the confirmation of several St. Dunstan's men.

Miss Ommaney has placed her house at Blackheath at the disposal of Sir Arthur Pearson as a rest-home for St. Dunstan's. There will be 40 beds available.

Notes and News

We have received a letter from C. E. Bolton, of Bexley Heath, reminding us that he was blinded on the 27th August, 1914, in the retreat from Mons. Was he the first to be blinded in that war? If not, how many others were before him?

★ ★ ★

P. J. Sparkes, of Grimsby, has been made a Life Honorary Member of his branch of the British Legion, in recognition of his excellent work over many years.

★ ★ ★

A. Bennett, of Dover, has again been elected to the Committee of the Dover Branch of the Kent County Association for the Blind, a position he has held for over twenty years.

★ ★ ★

Good luck to Joe Britton, of Wakefield, who has taken over a fish and chip business. Although he is handless, he is able to operate the machines that have been installed for cleaning and chipping the potatoes. He is, we believe, the second St. Dunstaner to start out in this line. The other is C. Firth, of Heswall, who has had a successful business for some years.

★ ★ ★

Stanley Heys, lift attendant at the King's Street District Bank, Manchester, overcame all transport difficulties arising out of the recent bus strike and reported on time for duty each morning.

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstaners will hear with regret that the house of Helen Keller, at Easton, Connecticut, has been destroyed by fire. The house had been closed while Miss Keller was visiting this country and the cause of the fire is not known.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR SIR,

Whilst I agree with the Chairman's Notes that there should be one Brotherhood for St. Dunstaners of both wars, there will be occasions when one wishes to distinguish them, therefore I suggest that the St. Dunstaners of War No. 1 should be called say, Brown Major, and St. Dunstaners of the Second War should be called Brown Minor.

Yours faithfully, BRAITHWAITE, Major.

Beryl Sleigh, the Singer

Seven years ago, Beryl Sleigh, a young contralto who had studied singing in this country and in Italy, and who had appeared in several West End shows, was waiting for the first vacancy at Sadlers Wells. But the war came and while serving with the A.T.S. (F.A.N.Y.), she was blinded in an air-raid. She was the first girl of this war to come to St. Dunstan's.

She has resumed her studies at the Royal College of Music, and with the well known Russian singer, Oda Slobodskaya, and on November 25th, at the Swedenborg Hall, she gave her first London recital.

A packed and enthusiastic audience, many of whom were St. Dunstaners, heard a delightful programme of twelve songs, ranging from *Ombra mai fu* from Handel's "Largo" to the joyful *Ring out wild bells*, by Edgar Bainton. Beryl's voice is rich in tone and wide in range, and a particularly happy choice of songs was Roger Quilter's *This House of Joy* and *Love's Philosophy*.

A most enjoyable evening included items by Edna Elphick ('cello) and Margaret Harris (pianoforte). Daisy Bucktrout was the accompanist. The concert was arranged by the Circle of International Art.

Our warmest congratulations are extended to Beryl. We wish her the greatest success in her professional life.

The Braille Radio Times

The Braille Radio Times is mailed regularly to about 150 St. Dunstaners. It is felt that the circulation would be much increased if this publication could be simplified to some extent. Here are a few questions to which we would like an answer:—

1. If you are at present receiving the Braille Radio Times, do you really use it or do you find it rather difficult, and not worth the trouble?

2. Do you consider the issue of a supplement containing a list of the special terms in use would solve the difficulty of the many special abbreviations which must be used to save space?

3. Have you any practical suggestions which will make this periodical more readable by the average St. Dunstaner?

Please write to the Welfare Superintendent at Headquarters and give your views. Your opinions will be very welcome.

From the Chairman's Postbag

J. Alton, of Ovingdean, has written to the Chairman asking if a machine could be produced to enable a sighted person with no knowledge of braille to write braille letters, so that a wife could write confidentially to her husband. Sir Ian, in his reply, says:—

"This is undoubtedly possible and I am sure we could make a machine, but the question is whether it would be used in large numbers. You mention electricity and I can assure you that if this was introduced the machine would cost £5 or £10, and possibly more, and if large numbers were ordered I doubt very much if many St. Dunstaners' wives would buy them at such a price. Our Research Department is now very busy with urgent gadgets for men with high disabilities, but I will refer your suggestion to them in case an idea turns up of doing the job you have in mind extremely simply and economically. If we can produce a machine for, say, 30s., on which a sighted person could write braille to a blind person, even if it was uncontracted braille, there might be real value in it."

★ ★ ★

DEAR SIR IAN,

You may be interested to learn that on my travels I had a gentleman from Reading (in the engineering business) as an escort, who mentioned that he had a "new" St. Dunstaner engaged on capstan lathe work. He told me the head of the department had informed him that the quality of the work was every bit as good, and often superior, to that produced by his colleagues.

For your information the name of the St. Dunstaner is Caswell. It is most gratifying to us 1914—1918 St. Dunstaners to know that our associates of the 1939—1945 affray are maintaining the prestige of St. Dunstan's.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK A. RHODES.

★ ★ ★

In a letter to Sir Ian, commenting upon the list of trades, professions and handicrafts in a recent REVIEW, George Fallowfield says:—

"The quality of our training as a whole has struck me as much superior to that given to the civilian blind, though the trainee spends more time than we do. I have been astonished to find men, after spending two years in an institution, can only make a couple of lines, yet we in eighteen months seem to have learnt everything, plus repair work. I have sold baskets to people which lasted them fifteen years. I have mats of fine design made by our men which have been at the door as many years, and trays made by our joiners in daily use still as good as ever, save for discolour.

From the First Polish St. Dunstaner

Sir Ian has received the following letter from Jan Lasowski ("Big John"), who was the first Polish blinded soldier to come to us:

DEAR SIR IAN,

I am leaving for France and I would like to say farewell to all members and friends at St. Dunstan's. It is nearly six years since I arrived at St. Dunstan's as a stranger, and I am pleased to say I was treated just the same as any Englishman. When first I arrived at St. Dunstan's, not knowing the English language proper and the rules of St. Dunstan's, I am sorry if I may have been a bit of a headache to you. When the Matron approached me as regards work such as carpentry, etc., I did not think I would be capable of doing such a job, but thanks to the training I received at St. Dunstan's I have succeeded. I would like to offer my special thanks to Mr. Frank Ralph, as he was a very good instructor as regards carpentry. I would also like to give my special thanks to Mr. T. Rogers and Miss Lowe for their assistance they gave me as regards typewriting and braille. After I left St. Dunstan's I went living with Mr. and Mrs. H. Roberts, of Lodge Farm, Dukinfield, and they have treated me as if I was their own son. They provided me with a workshop of my own and I have done exceedingly well. Thanking Mr. E. George, who has given me great assistance with my work during his visits and also supplying me with timber. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to Miss Wilson and Commander Smyth who have given me great care and attention.

Your obedient servant, JAN LASOWSKI.

New Talking Books

Early in the New Year new Talking Book machines will become available. There will be a few ready each month, starting in February. Full details of the Talking Book Committee's policy for the provision of machines to new entrants to the Library and for exchange of old machines for new will appear in next month's REVIEW.

Grandfathers

J. T. Illingworth, of Rochdale; A. Chaffin, of Leighton Buzzard; E. Mills, of Walsall; S. Jennings, of Bradford; and B. G. Wood, of Brackley.

Pensions Concession for Ex-Service Men

Early this month the Minister of Pensions announced in the House of Commons some important concessions in ex-Servicemen's pensions, some of which will affect St. Dunstaners. These include the payment of allowances in respect of the wives and children of disabled ex-Servicemen in receipt of pension at the standard rates, whatever the date of their marriage (hitherto these have only been payable if the marriage took place within ten years of the discharge from service or the pensioner was considered as unemployable). And he also announced a minimum allowance of 10s. a week attendance allowance, payable to a 100 per cent. disablement pensioner whose condition necessitates some regular attendance, with adjustments in certain other cases.

The removal of the ten years' bar on marriage and children's allowances marks the successful conclusion of a long campaign started by Sir Ian Fraser in the early years of the war.

This new award of Family Allowances will affect only a limited number of St. Dunstaners, as the majority of our married men who are in receipt of the standard rates of pension are already being paid allowances from the Government for their wives and children.

To ascertain the pensioners now entitled to the Allowances, the Ministry of Pensions are sending a small form to every man on their books who is not at present shown as receiving such Allowances from them. This will mean that St. Dunstaners who are single or who are widowers will also be receiving the form, but they need not take any action in the matter at all. Only St. Dunstaners in receipt of the standard flat rate pension and married more than ten years after the date of their discharge will be interested, and these men should please complete the form when it comes to hand, and should forward it to Mr. Askew, at Headquarters, so that he may see everything is in order before the form is returned to the Ministry.

It will take some time for the Ministry to send out all the necessary forms, but the Allowances will be awarded with effect from January 1st next, and arrears will be paid as from that date.

Speaking in the House of Commons on

December 5th, on the subject of the attendant allowances, Sir Ian Fraser said:

There are a great many ex-Servicemen who do not need a constant attendant, but who need some assistance in their homes. I should like to ask how far the Minister's statement goes and if he is going to raise the attendant allowances to be paid to severely disabled men above the level at which it has stood for many years. For example, so far as blinded soldiers, sailors or airmen are concerned, the attendant allowance was 10s. a week, when the maximum possible was £1 a week. I hope that the Minister will raise that to £1 a week now that the maximum has been raised to £2 a week.

The Minister, in reply, said that he had received a memorandum from St. Dunstan's and was considering it.

Continuing, Sir Ian said:—

The flat rate pension for 100 per cent. disability if a man was able to do work by which he earned more than £1 a week, was still only at £2 5s. a week. That was inadequate and should be adjusted. The rate had been at £2 since 1918, and the rise of 5s. is not an adequate reflection on rises in the cost of living. Many of these men are able, with great courage and perseverance, to undertake a job of work, but in many cases the jobs they are doing and have been doing for 30 years, is a job lower in standing than they might have been doing if they were not so severely disabled. For example, in Britain 100 blinded soldiers of the first World War are working as telephone operators, and splendid operators they are. They worked throughout the blitz and stuck to their jobs. Men of that calibre, courage and determination might well have been doing very much better than their present earnings, plus £2 5s.

The Minister's reply to this demand for an increase in the flat rate was unsympathetic.

Sir Ian also raised a number of other matters, including a demand for the removal of the seven years' limit for claims, more sympathetic granting of pensions by the Ministry, better care and employment for paraplegics, etc.

Concluding, Sir Ian said:

If a person loses one eye, he receives 40 per cent. of the flat rate. If he loses two eyes, he receives 100 per cent., plus allowances. But if a person loses one eye on service and subsequently loses the other eye from a natural cause, he still has to live the rest of his life in blindness on a 40 per cent. pension. The loss of one eye is not a very great handicap, but the anxiety lest he should lose the other eye is. A man who loses one eye should not only be given the pension for that eye, but an insurance policy that will make certain that, should he lose the other eye, he will get the full rate.

The Minister replied that this principle was being considered.

Promotions

Colin Wardle (late of Basingstoke) has been promoted to Warrant Officer, 1st Class, in R.E.M.E.

Richard Tanner (St. Ives), serving in India, is now a full lieutenant.

Ovingdean Notes

This month's Notes begin on a sad note, for we have to record with great regret, the death of two of our trainees, both of whom died on November 27th. They were Alexander Hirs, an Estonian, of the Estonian Merchant Service, and Bob Bridgman, who was only with us a short time, and who was a soldier of the 1914-1918 war.

Her many friends will also be deeply sorry to hear that Miss Mary Hill died suddenly in St. Dunstan's Trainee House, North Gate, Rottingdean, on December 1st. Mary Hill, who was so well known for her cooking, had been twelve years in St. Dunstan's service, at Portland Place, Tiger Hall, Church Stretton, and at North Gate.

The *Illustrated London News* of November 23rd, carried four fine pages of sketches executed by Capt. Bryan de Grineau, showing something of the life of Ovingdean. Capt. Grineau had visited us the previous month.

A new form of sport is being tried out at Ovingdean—fencing. It gives promise of being adaptable and well suited to blind people as an addition to those sports which they already enjoy.

Those who find the acoustics of Ovingdean trying will be interested to know that a trial will be carried out in providing the Winter Garden with special acoustic improving materials, and if this is successful, other parts of the building will be also treated.

On Armistice Day, a ceremonial Service was conducted in the Chapel by the Rev. Bryan Crane, our officiating Chaplain, when a wreath was laid at the altar by the Commandant, supported by a representative St. Dunstaner of the Royal Navy, the Army, Royal Air Force, and the Merchant Navy.

Among the departures of our trainees this term, has been Frank Oostoeck, our Dutch friend, who has returned to Holland as a basket-maker, with his English wife. Bill Griffiths, who is handless, has left for his job in a lorry-contractor's business.

Dick Brett, another of our handless men, has invented a very simple and effective cigarette lighter, twelve of which have now been made for each of the handless men.

Trainees in the Machine Shop are making parts on their lathes for the handless

looms which Mr. Nye, of the Research Department, is making.

Among the staff who are leaving, is Miss H. Campbell, from whom we will part with regret. She leaves only one Canadian among those who have given such fine service to St. Dunstan's.

Congratulations and good wishes to the following men who have started jobs:

J. Cowan (capstan), with Messrs. Messenger and Sons, Birmingham; G. Edwards (tapping), with Messrs. Cooke and Ferguson, Manchester; A. Paulson (assembly), Sheltered Workshop, Manchester; J. C. Walters (woodworking), Windmill Furniture Products; D. McGoohan (telephony), Government Training Centre, Manchester; E. Bugbee (assembly), Compressed Rubber Products Ltd., Harefield, Middlesex; G. Dalton (assembly), Messrs. F. Kidd, Stockton; I. Darling has commenced a refresher course in telephony.

Test Results

Advanced.—E. Tucker.

Preliminary.—C. Minaar, A. Hold, S. Warner, R. Herbert.

Writing.—S. Doy, S. Stinson, E. Tucker.

Typing.—J. Alton, P. Filby, L. Halliday, C. Campkin, A. Rahim, T. Walters, G. Stark, G. Reed.

"Ode" to Sister Berry

Here is an "ode" to Sister Berry

Who works at St. D's where she's always quite merry.

*"In the dispensary's" one of her jobs,
She waits on the roughs, the toughs and the snobs.
Whether it's headaches, a cold, or a cough
She'll hand out the dope and then see you off.
Eyewashes, aspirins, linctus, cascara,
Or something to move the sands of Sahara.
If occasion arises she'll tuck you in bed,
Feed you on slops, put a balm to your head.
She'll take your temperature winter or summer,
If she thinks it too high, she'll send for the
"plumber"*

*And when you recover, and feel like a prance
She'll spin you around, she just loves a dance!
If she's waiting at table she won't keep you long,
She'll hand you the grub as she twitters a song.
So here's to Miss Berry, each of us agrees,
She's the right type of lass to serve at St. D's.*

*It's a wee bit too long to call it a sonnet,
But it comes from a bloke with a bee in his
bonnet.*

W. J. MARKWICK.

On War Service

News has come to us of the deaths of the sons of two Australian St. Dunstaners—Charles H. Hills and Nick Carter.

Nick Carter's son was killed during the Japanese campaign. John Hills, cutting short his career at Sydney University, to become a Sergeant Navigator, Royal Australian Air Force, was accidentally killed as the result of a bomb-throwing mishap. Our deep sympathy goes out to their parents in their grievous loss.

Other Australian News

Some time ago we had the pleasure of greeting at Headquarters Mrs. H. Watson, wife of our Australian St. Dunstaner, G. V. Watson, of Melbourne. Mrs. Watson was visiting England to see her father, who was very ill, but "Watty" had had to stay behind as the necessary permission was not forthcoming. He was in good hands, however—his daughter's. Mrs. Watson told us some items of news about other Australians, which we were glad to have, although, as Mrs. Watson said, up-to-date news was difficult owing to the long distances and, therefore, restricted visiting. However, here are a few notes.

Dudley Tregent, Melbourne—doing wonderfully well as a barrister.

Alan Marshall, South Australia—married.

Alec Craigie—well up to a year ago; no more news since.

Nick Carter—worked on camouflage netting during the war in a factory. His eldest son, Jim, came over with the Air Force, and became a prisoner of war.

Harold Gibson, Melbourne—four children, some married with children of their own.

Bob Archer—son now a doctor.

Tom White—working very hard with newly-blinded soldiers; he teaches typing.

Miss Gurner, South Australia—well.

Jack Barfield—sick in hospital, but going on slowly.

Sir Clutha Mackenzie

Sir Ian Fraser has accepted an invitation from the Government of India to send Sir Clutha Mackenzie to report on blindness in China, and to advise on the training of war-blinded soldiers. The British Red Cross and other relief organisations are also interested in the mission. Sir Clutha has been carrying out similar tasks in India with great success during the past five years.

In Parliament

Sir Ian Fraser, speaking against a Government resolution in the House of Commons recently to take private members' time, said that it must not be thought that all wisdom was on the Front Bench of the Government. He asked that this vigorous Parliament, with so many young men, should not be denied the opportunity of bringing fresh ideas and proposals. Sir Ian recalled that in his time in the House he had, with the assent of members of all parties, two little Bills passed under the ten-minutes' rule, for the benefit of the blind community. Both did some small amount of good for some scores of thousands of people, and they would never have been touched by the Government.

"This Parliament should represent not only the small man, but the small groups of people," said Sir Ian.

The Bills to which Sir Ian referred are the Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons' Facilities) Act, 1929, which gave every blind person a free licence, and the Blind Voters' Act, 1934, which enabled a blind person to vote secretly with the aid of a friend or relation, instead of declaring his vote publicly in the polling booth.

★ ★ ★

On December 4th, in the House of Commons, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will encourage suitable blind and blinded Germans to reorganise and rehabilitate facilities for the provision of education, training and work for blind people in the British zone.

Mr. J. Hynd: Yes, sir, investigations are already in hand to ascertain how best the Control Commission can assist and encourage the Germans to reorganise their blind welfare services.

Sir Ian Fraser: Is the Hon. Gentleman aware that any help given in this matter will bear fruit, because many blind people, especially young blinded ex-Servicemen, can do valuable economic work?

Mr. Hynd: We are fully aware of these factors, and that is why the question is receiving the attention at present being given to it.

Miss Rayson

St. Dunstaners will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Miss A. K. Rayson, who was, from 1925 until 1937, Social Visitor for the South Eastern Area. Although Miss Rayson left us early in 1937, she had never lost her interest in St. Dunstan's, and many St. Dunstaners will recall with affection their meetings with her at Brighton and Hastings Reunions this year.

Remploy Factories

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, as Minister of Labour in the last Government, promoted the Disabled Persons' Employment Corporation, Ltd., in accordance with Section 15 of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, and invited the Rt. Hon. Viscount Portal, D.S.O., to be the Chairman. The Corporation, formed in accordance with the Companies Act, 1929, is limited by guarantee and is financed by the State.

The function of the Corporation is to provide employment in "Remploy Factories" and in the case of homebound, in the homes, for all classes of registered disabled persons who are so severely handicapped by disablement, as to be unlikely, either at any time or until after a lapse of a long period, to be able otherwise to obtain employment.

The employment in the Remploy Factories is suitable for certain more severely disabled St. Dunstaners who are not able to do the harder full time of a normal factory. Wages are paid during employment on productive work, and the recognised full rate in each district is paid to disabled persons who are regarded as competent. The products of the factories are sold, bearing the name of "Remploy" and sub-contracts are undertaken for local industries.

It is intended that there should be 80-100 of these factories set up throughout the United Kingdom, the first three of which have been started. The Salford Factory was officially opened by Lord Portal on December 9th. Two St. Dunstaners, A. Paulson and L. E. Deauville, are already employed there on light assembly and it is intended in the near future to add two or three more St. Dunstaners to this factory and also to other Remploy Factories near the homes of other St. Dunstaners.

At the moment we cannot say how successful this type of employment will be to the advantage of St. Dunstaners who wish more sheltered conditions, but it is an interesting experiment which may prove to be an advance on the older method of settlement of St. Dunstaners of this category who have formerly gone to their homes to make baskets, or work at other light employment.

To St. Dunstan's

Who are sure ; so they can and they will
Prove that vision is light to the mind.
Having known loss of sight, I've been shown
Vision lies in the mind, not the eyes,
St. Dunstan's where the blind are not blind,
You have shown men the source of true light
And have shown all the world, all mankind,
That no man having vision needs sight.

J. FRANCIS SMITH.

West House Notes

The weather at Brighton, we regret to say, has not been any kinder than in other parts of the country. However, if it has not been possible to get out and about as much as we should have liked, we have had more than our fair share of surprises and entertainment.

For those of us who had visited the Theatre Royal and enjoyed the play "The Hasty Heart," it was an added thrill when we met Miss Margaretta Scott and other members of the cast, who so kindly came along to West House to visit us on November 8th. We particularly appreciated the way they remembered to talk with our friends in the Sick Ward. We presented Miss Scott with a tray, made by Tommy Tuxford, and a bouquet and ranged ourselves round her happily for the "Press." It was an afternoon we shall remember for a long while to come.

Our first Concert this month was given by "Youth Takes a Bow," and we have to thank our young friends for a jolly evening, both then and later in the month, when we were invited to the Hove Town Hall.

A number of us enjoyed an excellent Symphony Concert at the Dome, for which we were given tickets, and then there was the never-failing attraction of a party, given for us by the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association, which is a well established favourite on our Calendar. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking the retiring Chairman, who has done so much for the social life of St. Dunstan's during the past years, and we welcome the new Chairman.

On November 10th was commemorated Remembrance Day, with a Service at 11 a.m., which was held in the lounge, and conducted by Commander Paul. In the afternoon a detachment of men paraded for the Service at the Dome. Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial by Commander Paul, Sheridan and Frank.

A little party of us visited St. Dunstan's Corner on November 11th, and wreaths were laid on the graves of the late Matron Thelluson and Matron Boyd Rochfort, and Flanders Poppies on the graves of those men who died at St. Dunstan's. Prayers were read by Canon T. J. James, M.C.

Everyone had a grand time at the dance given by the local Red Cross Detachment, at the Regent Dance Hall, and also at a

dance held at West House, when prizes were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, of Hove.

In spite of the rain we did manage to organise a little riding for the New War holiday men, and there were car trips, including tea on the road, for those who are not able to get out often.

Finally, there was an impromptu Concert, arranged by Jack Sullivan, at which Brighton's Max Miller was the guest star. We think we are right in saying this was the first time a Concert had been held in the Sick Ward—but it certainly must not be the last! We should like to express our thanks to Max Miller, Jack Sullivan, Arthur Hyman and George Barnard for an evening which was a howling success. A special word, too, to W. T. Curtis-Willson and our friends at the Sussex Yacht Club, who sent along plenty of beer and cigarettes—thank you all very much—it was just what we needed to make the evening perfect!

Well, this was to have been a quiet month because of the redecorating which is going on, but we think you will agree that in spite of the presence of the painters in the lounge and conservatory, and fewer men, we have suffered very little in our programme of entertainments.

To those of you who will not be with us for Christmas we send the Season's Greetings.

We are glad to be able to give good news of Q. M. Evans. Her many friends will be pleased to learn she is well on the way to recovery from her recent illness, and we all combine to wish her a speedy return to good health. Whilst we know she must still have a long convalescence, we are hoping she will come to our New Year's Eve Party, and are looking forward to seeing her once again.

National Laying Test

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Gregory, T. ...	102
2	Jackson, George ...	97
3	Fisher, T. M. ...	71
4	McIntosh, Charles ...	43
5	Holmes, Percy ...	35
6	Jarvis, Albert ...	33
7	McLaren, David ...	32
8	Chaffin, Albert ...	—
9	Smith, W. Alan ...	24
10	Watson-Brown, M. ...	3
Average per bird, 8.28		

The "Drone" at Ovingdean

On holiday at West House, Bert Dean and I hit a loose-end day, so we decided to honour Ovingdean with our presence. If any of the "Plum-and-Apple" war men strike a sticky patch when on holiday, go to Ovingdean and have a chin-wag with the "Spam War" boys there. After visiting the workshops you will have received a tonic.

Mr. Leslie Banks, Miss Davieson, Charley Hawkett were pleasant contacts after so many years apart. Matron Pain was away, we regretted that. Our objective was the workshops, and particularly the Engineering and Upholstery. Engineering Shop first. Mr. K. Norman, instructor, gladly and exhaustively opened up life there to us. The drone of the machines, the unfamiliar sounds of steel-boring, turning, sawing, banging of steel upon steel, his cupboard full of manufactured articles; their uses explained, the constant busy hum, the cleanliness of the place, its airiness, everybody busy and wholly concentrated, it all impressed us much. We chatted with George Edwards, of Liverpool, a life soldier, who, in eight weeks, had progressed from small machines to operating a full-size machine. George is a product of a later, live - faster - and - more - dangerously generation. He has done the right thing—seized his opportunity with both hands, and we congratulate him and others upon that.

We then witnessed, to us, an immensely clever piece of craftsmanship. John Taylor, of Ovril, Suffolk, was dismantling a motor engine. Make no mistake about it. It was slowly disintegrating into its constituent parts. We stood by while its dismemberment took place. This was immensely intriguing. To an average sighted person this would seem an impossibility. It is not so. It is an accomplished fact. Later he will put it together again. It would demand the quintessence of concentration. That quality was in strong evidence in all the men operating the machines. This shop is more than interesting.

On the same floor, housed in one corner, is the Boot-repair section. To old "hide-bashers" this is worth a visit. Nail trays are now above the bench. You will be mainly interested in the machines; sewers, stitchers, and the Blaker. Benching is much about the same. Mr. Kitson, instructor, always ready to rush you around.

Away to the Upholstery Shop. Here

the noises consisted of dull wallops, taps, squeaks and the burr of a sewing machine. But the finished product which resulted from these sounds would charm any woman's eye. Mr. S. G. Bundy, the chief instructor, gave us a resume of the curricula of the training. Work is highly technical, artistic, and delicate; and demands a measure of imagination, initiative, and a capacity to mentally visualise a finished product. This is not every man's job, but it is certainly a busy one for those undergoing training. We spent an interesting hour, and left the boys springing, stitching, stuffing, covering and kicking up no end of a dust.

The Carpenter's Shop also held us for a few minutes. All I had time to do there was to look around for soap boxes, but there were none. As I hope to visit the Basket Shop I must leave these two trades till another time, then see what I can see.

We spent a day—in fact nearly two days—at Ovingdean with profit. To all men able to stand the climb, pay it a visit, you'll get a welcome and another when you return to Matron Ouseley, and the ten wise maids of Kemp Town.

When visiting the Engineering Shop ask the instructor to show you the "Eccentric Ejector Bolt," turned by a blind man.

W.E.B.

Young St. Dunstaners

Jean Westell (Liverpool) is now a fully qualified teacher.

V. Alderson's daughter has passed matriculation out of college with a view to becoming a chartered accountant.

Reg. Ashmore (Loughborough) has passed his Oxford School Certificate examination, and Pat Barbour (Brighton) her matriculation.

Harry Sterno (Bath) has been mentioned in despatches for gallant and distinguished service in N.W. Europe.

Joyce Davies (Darwen) has qualified as a teacher, and Margaret has passed her School Certificate.

Mary Carlton (Canterbury) has obtained her B.Sc. degree.

Marriages

On May 25th, A. R. Jarman (Bournemouth), to Miss Marjorie Runyard.

On May 3rd, Ada Capstick (Lancaster), to Arnold Edmunds, Canadian R.A.F.

May Davies (Wrexham), on July 6th, to Irwin Povah.

On June 18th, James Butler (Waterford), to Miss Winifred Boyce, and on June 28th, Julia Butler to Eric Crawford.

In December last, Charles Puddefoot (Worthing), to Miss Eileen Tebay.

On June 29th, Laura Thompson (Bolton), to John Hart.

“In Memory”

Private John Joseph McKenna, *1st Manchester Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of J. J. McKenna, of Manchester, who enlisted as early as August 7th, 1914, and was blinded at Ypres in May, 1915. He came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1915, where he trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker, but for some years before his death he had only been able to continue with wool rug-making. His death occurred very suddenly at his home on August 9th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Herbert John Watling, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. J. Watling, of Wirral.

Although his sight and health were very seriously damaged as a result of his service from 1915 until 1919, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1939, and his health then prevented him from receiving any training. For a number of years he had been a permanent resident at Melplash and at West House, Brighton, and he passed away at West House on September 8th. He was laid to rest at Hotton Parish Church, Cheshire.

He was a widower with one son, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

Rifleman Herbert James Bridgman, *King's Royal Rifle Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of H. J. Bridgman, of Windsor.

Wounded in France in 1916, as a result of which he lost his left eye, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until October, 1946, by which time his sight had almost completely failed. He was received into training at Ovingdean, but he became ill shortly afterwards and he passed away after a brief illness on November 27th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Bridgman and her son.

Private Frederick Bradfield, *35th Royal Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. Bradfield, of Battersea.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917, after being wounded in France, and he trained as a boot repairer, and he carried on his trade for some years. In the summer of 1946, however, he became ill, and he died in Claybury Hospital on November 28th. He was a single man.

Births

COOK.—To the wife of L. W. Cook, of Sutton, on June 26th, a son—John Allen.

GODING.—On November 29th, to the wife of R. J. Goding, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a daughter.

HART.—On November 23rd, to the wife of T. P. Hart, of Shrewsbury, a son—Christopher Patrick.

MCCREA.—On November 24th, to the wife of H. McCrea, of Belfast, a son.

Marriages

FLEISIG—FRY.—On November 30th, D. D. Fleisig, of Brockley, to Miss Dorothy June Fry.

LEWIS—MOORE.—On November 23rd, J. Lewis, of Wolverhampton, to Miss Rosalyn Moore.

COOKE—PARTRIDGE.—On December 14th, G. Cooke, of Crewe, to Miss E. L. Partridge, of Shrewsbury.

Car Hire Service

Ron Vincent tells us that the details given last month about his Car Hire Service were not quite accurate. His address is 162 Randall Avenue, Cricklewood, N.W.2, and the telephone number, day and night, is Gladstone 6825.

Ilkley Bridge Congress

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club Takes Part

The Bridge Club broke new ground by a visit to Ilkley in the first week-end of December. The local St. Dunstan's Committee organised a Bridge Congress on behalf of our funds, and at the invitation of the Committee, a team was sent up to Ilkley to represent the Bridge Club. They entered in a Town and Open Competition for teams of four, and on this occasion finished about half-way. They also entered pairs for that particular competition, and we are happy to note that Drummer Downs, with our kindly escort, Jack Armstrong, won first prize on the Saturday afternoon. The hospitality of the Yorkshire people was indeed excellent, and one regretted that the all too short visit ended too quickly.

Our other Saturday afternoons have been spent in a very pleasant way and we anticipate a bumper meeting for our Christmas Bridge Drive.

The Committee wishes all the members a very joyous Christmas and may the New Year bring health and prosperity. R.P.C.

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Christmas greetings to all St. Dunstaners and their wives and families from “Mrs. George.”

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 335—VOLUME XXXI [New Series] JANUARY, 1947

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY.
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

New Talking Book Machines

TWO thousand new Talking Book machines will be manufactured next year and delivery of a small number should begin by the middle of February, if all goes well. I am glad to be able to report this news, with the qualification "if all goes well," for there is now a considerable number of St. Dunstaners on a waiting list. There have been very great delays, indeed, due to the difficulty of getting any manufacturer to undertake the order. During the war years they were undertaking Service contracts, and during the past year they have been turning over to peace-time production and are most anxious to get into the popular radio market with long mass production runs, and have not been anxious to take a small specialised order like ours.

Now, however, I am glad to say that our Technical Committee has approved a model made by the Decca Gramophone Co., Ltd., and this firm is going out of its way to help us. So are the Garrard Engineering and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., the motor makers. I express my thanks to both of them.

The new machine is very similar to the pre-war Talking Book machines, but embodies certain improvements. For example, there are two valves instead of one, giving better quality and greater amplification. Then we are using a very small and light pick-up, which weighs only a fraction of the standard instrument and not only improves quality, but prevents wear on the records. This pick-up is fitted with a permanent sapphire needle, which should last many months if properly cared for. In order to protect the needle and also to give further protection to the records, it is hoped that the machine may also have a pick-up lifting and lowering device, which will enable the operator to put the needle down, or pick up without any risk of scratching the records.

The machine will cost about £12, or possibly a little less, and from a special fund there will be a subsidy on each machine of £3, so that they may be available to St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind at approximately £9 each. Roughly speaking, sixty per cent. of the machines are for the use of the civilian blind through the National Institute for the Blind, and forty per cent. are for the use of St. Dunstan's.

St. Dunstan's Offer

The Joint Sound Recording Committee has decided that all existing Talking Book machines must be recalled over a period because the heavy pick-ups with which they are fitted are wearing out our records unduly and costing a very great deal of money for replacement. It is best for our readers that we should insist upon this change so that we may get better reproduction in the future and also have more books. We are hoping shortly to

open two Recording Studios in a new technical building in place of the one Recording Studio we have had in a shed in my back garden since our original buildings were blitzed.

The plan is to allocate the new machines approximately half for replacement of old machines, starting from those which do the most damage, and the other half to new readers, who are on the waiting lists. As machines become available, we will write to groups of St. Dunstaners asking them to return their old machines and we will present them with a new one free of charge. Owing to the danger of leaving the old machines in circulation, we are obliged to insist that the new machine will not be presented unless the old one is returned.

We shall write first to those who have acoustic machines, that is, the machines which wind up mechanically without electricity, because they are the ones that do the most harm to our records. Every man who has an acoustic machine, will receive a letter asking him if he has electricity in his house and if the answer is "yes" the exchange will be made. Those who live in out of the way places and have no electricity will have to keep their acoustic machines for some time, until we are able to devise something better for them.

The new machines will only play records at twenty-four revolutions per minute for British Talking Book records and at thirty-three r.p.m. for American records. They will not play ordinary gramophone records. The reason for this is that a much more substantial and better designed motor can be made for this limited function, than if it has to run at the relatively fast speed of seventy-eight revolutions as well as at the slow speed of twenty-four. We have found that to try and cover this wide range with one motor has led to a lot of trouble due to excessive braking and overheating.

There are many St. Dunstaners, who use the talking book machine for playing ordinary records and they may like the opportunity of having one of the old instruments for this purpose. To meet this need we will—so far as labour, spare parts and facilities allow—pick out a proportion of the old machines that are returned to us and will over a period have them put into good order and the motors altered so that they will only run at ordinary record speed and not at the slow talking book speed. As and when these become available, at the rate of a small number each week, we will sell them to St. Dunstaners at the price of £2 10s. for an acoustic machine and £5 for an electric machine.

The final effect of the subsidy from the special fund and of this most generous offer on the part of St. Dunstan's is that during a period of about a year, every St. Dunstaner, who at present has a talking book machine, will have it replaced for a new one of better design and performance, free of charge. Concurrently, men on the waiting list will be able to secure new talking book machines at the additionally subsidised price of £5 each.

I strongly recommend every St. Dunstaner, who has got a talking book machine, and who wants one, to write to Horace Kerr at once and place an order with him, or confirm an existing order. During the past two or three years we have been blitzed and have moved and have had many staff changes and our list may have mistakes in it. That is why I am asking those who believe they are already on the list to confirm the fact.

My Braille Speed

Last week I happened to be reading, in braille, a detective story called "The Crime Philosopher," and on two occasions I timed my reading over ten pages. On the first occasion I read ten pages in thirty-seven minutes, which equals three minutes forty-two seconds per page. On the second occasion I read ten pages in thirty-five minutes, which equals three minutes thirty seconds per page. I notice that, writing in the *REVIEW* in February, 1943, I said that I was reading braille then at the rate of a page in five minutes. I have consciously tried over the last two or three years to increase my speed by the simple process of pressing myself forward and trying to cover the words just a little more quickly than is natural. Evidently this process has had its effect. I still read very slowly by comparison with many blind people, but I would be interested to know how my speed compares with that of typical St. Dunstaners. One thing is clear, namely, that you are not too old to continue learning, even though you are nearly fifty.

IAN FRASER.

Ink-print and Braille

One or two readers may have noticed that the ink-print and the braille editions of the REVIEW are sometimes slightly different. Last month a note from the Chairman on braille reading appeared in the braille issue which had to be held over until this month in the printed REVIEW, and there were other omissions in the braille issue which we have corrected this month.

While it is an easy matter to lift and hold over printed matter, it is much more difficult and costly to alter matter which has already been set up in braille. When, therefore, last minute changes or additions have to be made, it is sometimes impossible to make the corresponding changes in the braille issue.

Normally, however, the ink-print copy and the braille issue of the REVIEW are identical and great trouble is taken to make them so.

Braille Reading

Following the Chairman's Note on Braille Reading, G. A. Prince, of Newcastle, writes as follows:

I read with interest your remarks in the REVIEW on braille reading and beg to point out that your statement tends to be very misleading in view of the fact that a page of braille does not always contain the same number of lines. Braille Reading Tests are governed by the number of lines read in a given time, and not by the number of pages. From experience I have found that fiction books issued by the N.I.B. have eighteen lines on each page, whereas the REVIEW and the *Braille Science Journal* have twenty-eight lines on each. I find that I can read comfortably five lines a minute.

I have also found that when reading an exciting story my finger fairly tears along the lines and I forget all about such things as quotes and commas, etc. I get so wrapped up in the story that I forget everything else.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE A. PRINCE.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SIR IAN comments:

"G. A. Prince's criticism of my statement is quite correct. But I was not claiming

any speed record. I was only commenting on an observation I happened to have made in my own reading which I thought would interest others and perhaps stimulate St. Dunstaners to increase their own speed by the process of consciously hurrying a bit. I knew that reading a detective tale like the *Crime Philosopher* in a Panda edition was much easier than test braille and that is why I mentioned the particular book by name. As G. A. Prince says, when reading a novel, one skips brackets, italics, capitals and all the other hurdles, and I often find that I slip names. Sometimes I will read a whole chapter of a book and not be aware at the end of it what the real name of the hero is. If I am reading *King Solomon's Mines*, he is just UM and about two inches, and I recognise him as such. I do not bother to read the whole name, UMSLOPOGAS. This is not, of course, test reading, but pleasure reading."

Some Braille Comparisons

Readers may be interested in the following brief facts about familiar braille books and magazines:

- (1) ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW in braille—each page contains 28 lines with an average of 203 words.
- (2) *World Digest*, 29 lines, 255 words.
- (3) *American Reader's Digest*, 32 lines, 256 words.
- (4) A Panda detective story, 29 lines, 248 words.

Commander Smyth Writes

GOODBYE MY FRIENDS,

During the past year I have found that my complex administrative job was becoming a burden to me—a new and unpleasant experience. Very reluctantly, I came to the conclusion that a younger and more vigorous man was needed, so I am retiring.

My relief, Mr. Mackay, who has been working with me for the past couple of months, has, in good measure, the qualities which I know to be necessary and I am sure that you will like him and rely on him.

It hurts me to leave you, but I know that your interests will be in good hands.

My wife, who is known to many of you, joins me in wishing you all the best of luck.

Christmas, '46.

A. D. D. SMYTH.

Fifty-five Years with the Fresh Air Fund

Mr. Kessell Retires

Mr. Ernest Kessell, C.B.E., honorary secretary of Pearson's Fresh Air Fund since the Fund was founded by Sir Arthur Pearson fifty-five years ago, has retired. He is the last survivor of the three original organisers, the third being Sir John Kirk. Sir Arthur died in 1921 and Sir John the following year, but "E.K.," as everyone knows him, remained to work unceasingly for the charity which was so dear to Sir Arthur.

Sir Neville Pearson, President of the Fresh Air Fund, in a tribute to "E.K.," writes:

"The F.A.F. was originated by my father and all through his life, it was his pet charity. For him, the creation of St. Dunstan's was a lifework telescoped into the space of a few years. But the F.A.F. was a pet which had lived with him practically throughout his business career. In the creation of both these enterprises, Ernest Kessell was staunchly at his right hand. And there he stayed. With Sir John Kirk of the Ragged School Union—later changed to the Shaftesbury Society—Kessell travelled through the length and breadth of the land, until committees were formed in more than forty different centres and the seeds were sown which were to bring happiness into the lives of nearly seven million children. His has been a kindly and noble work. Long may he be spared to give us the benefit of his counsel and advice."

Mr. Kessell has received letters from Their Majesties the King and Queen, and Queen Mary, upon his retirement. He is now seventy-nine, but looks only sixty, and is still an active golfer and gardener. The greenhouse which St. Dunstaners presented to him when he retired from his office of Treasurer in 1932, is still one of his most treasured possessions.

To Campers

Lieut. L. Fawcett and Chief Petty Officer Moore send their warmest thanks to 1946 Campers for the gifts of cigarette boxes which they have received *via* Mrs. Spurway. They add that they were proud to have the honour of being their hosts and look forward to joining them at the 1947 Camp if they can "make it."

St. Dunstaners in Train Smashes

Two St. Dunstaners were involved in two serious train accidents shortly after Christmas, but although they were greatly shaken, both fortunately escaped without serious injury.

On December 27th, Wally Thomas, a St. Dunstaner of the recent war who is deaf also, was on his way to London Headquarters, from Bournemouth, when the train was derailed. Although the engine and all twelve coaches left the rails, there were only two casualties. Wally was naturally shaken, but he continued his journey by road and arrived at Park Crescent cheery and smiling.

Three days later, Jock Duncan, of Hull, with Mrs. Duncan, were in the Hull to King's Cross express when it was over-run by another train from Leeds, several coaches being derailed. A number of passengers were injured, and Jock and his wife were both bruised by falling luggage, but they went on to London and the next day Jock travelled to West House, where he is now recuperating.

Sir Clutha Mackenzie Honoured

The congratulations of all St. Dunstaners will be extended to Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who has been awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal for public services in India. Sir Clutha has represented St. Dunstan's in India throughout the war and received a special instruction from the Government of India to report on blindness generally in that country.

The Kaisar-i-Hind Medal is a high honour which is made as a reward for any person, of either sex, who has rendered useful service in or for India. There are two classes, First Class, Gold Medal; Second Class, Silver Medal.

Special Notice

The Welfare Committee has decided to make reasonable grants in approved cases to help with the initial installation of electricity in rural areas. The scheme is intended particularly to help those who may have to meet substantial charges because their homes are some distance away from the mains. St. Dunstaners may ascertain details of the scheme and whether it applies to their individual case by writing to Mr. Mackay, Superintendent, Welfare Department.

Points from Letters

The Blinded German

"Every reader of the REVIEW must have experienced a feeling of pride and pleasure when they read of men in two such widely separated places as China and Germany, wishing to re-establish themselves as useful and productive citizens, turning to our organisation for help and guidance. China has for many years had the benefit and assistance of our Mission workers and doctors, so it is perhaps not strange for them to turn to us in their need: but surely no greater compliment could be paid not only to St. D.'s, but to the British in general (of whom we are only a cross section), that a member of a very recent enemy country should turn to us for assistance and advice in the hour of his need; it is a tribute to that spirit of fair play and forgiveness which the British are always ready to extend to a beaten foe."

Ovingdean.

T. ROGERS.

"I feel very strongly that some help should be given to him if at all possible. I think this would be a means of furthering better and closer friendship and understanding between us and our late adversaries. It is and always has been my sincerest wish that St. Dunstan's should become the one organisation throughout the whole world for all blinded ex-service men and women and that every country should have a St. Dunstan's Headquarters, to be governed by our own Headquarters in London."

Otley.

F. J. GUISELEY.

"It is just sheer hypocrisy to talk of loving the Nazis. The Bible or any biblical adherent, after all the atrocities which have been showered on the world and the people of the blitzed areas, cannot possibly mean that we should show love and charity to the Nazis until they have at least shown by their actions that they are done with militarism for all time."

Dublin.

D. J. McLOUGHLIN.

"I was surprised at the attitude of my colleagues in wanting to welcome the blind German into our circle; don't they realise that the Germans look upon kindness as a form of weakness? I wonder if the Canadians who were captured at Dieppe would think the same as Mick McFarlane, and I would like to hear the opinion of the

'14-'18 men who lost sons in the 1939 war. 'Love thy neighbour as thyself' are very fine words, but there is no need to invite the neighbour into your house, especially if the neighbour is German."

Ilford.

JOCK MACFARLANE.

"I am afraid I have not got quite so much sympathy for the Hun. We cannot pity those who strived to put us out of existence and have brought nothing but misery and sadness to the world. If the Huns are to have advice, then let it be in their own country and not over these shores. St. Dunstan's is for British soldiers, sailors and airmen, blinded in both wars, and not for enemies."

Dalston, N.1.

H. TOMKINSON.

Sir Ian's Reply

St. Dunstaners who have followed the correspondence arising out of the letter sent by the blinded German to our Chairman will be interested in the following letter which Sir Ian has now sent to Herr Friedrich Walter.

December 30th, 1946.

DEAR HERR WALTER,

I have consulted some of my friends about your letter of October 10th, and am now able to reply to you. I have published your letter in our magazine and three or four British blinded ex-service men will be pleased to exchange correspondence with you and I have given them your address. They will, no doubt, write you letters in typewriting, because at present the use of Braille for communication between England and Germany is forbidden. I have written to the Minister in charge of the British Zone asking him to allow the use of Braille.

I am sorry we cannot supply you with a Talking Book machine, partly because we are extremely short of machines and have a long waiting list ourselves, but also because by itself it would be useless to you personally. You could not make use of it unless you had a regular supply of records and we could not send these to Germany for the use of yourself or a very limited number of German blinded ex-servicemen who can understand the English language. I have recently asked the Minister in charge of the British Zone, in Parliament, to encourage the setting up in Germany of organisation for the welfare of the blind. When these are organised

we will be glad to send to an approved organisation for the German blind, or for German blinded soldiers, a sample Talking Book machine and a few records in the German language, so as to demonstrate the system and enable your people to understand the technique and start setting up the Talking Book Library of their own. You may be interested to know that before the War, I supplied a machine and some sample records to the German Blinded Soldiers Organisation for this purpose, but no doubt they are lost or have been destroyed.

I am writing to Herr Voigt of Hamburg, who is an old pre-war friend of mine, about this matter and of the Talking Book, and I will send him a copy of this letter. You may like to know that very soon after the end of the war in Europe, I wrote to Lord Montgomery, the Field Marshal who was then in charge of British Troops in Germany, giving him Herr Voigt's name and telling him that if he needed advice in caring for German blinded soldiers he could go to Herr Voigt. I urged him even at that early date to do something to help them.

As regards your request to come to England, I think this will have to wait for a little time, partly because St. Dunstan's is now very full up and partly, also, because it might be difficult to get permission. There is also the point that the war is such a recent event, that it would, I think, be wise to leave an interchange of visit for a little while until they could be undertaken with unanimous approval.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

IAN FRASER.

Other Points from Letters

I am glad to see that Sir Ian is still "pegging" away at the Minister of Pensions and I hope he will soon start on the Minister of Transport. As transport is going to be nationalised, perhaps he will succeed in getting us free passes on London buses without an escort, the same as in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Leeds, Bradford and other cities.

JOCK MACFARLANE.

BRaille WRITING

I used to write letters to my husband with the ordinary braille-writing machine, although I had very little knowledge of Braille.

I learned the alphabet, but had no knowledge of contractions.

My husband could always understand what I had written. Perhaps this information may encourage other wives to "try their hand" at braille-writing.

With the season's greetings to St. Dunstan's and all St. Dunstaners.

Yours sincerely,

Aberdeen. (Mrs.) H. J. HUTCHEON.

THE TWO WARS

I do not agree with Braithwaite's idea, since "Major" is an army rank and can be misunderstood and I don't like the "Minor" for the new boys. If we are to have any distinction I would suggest, "Brown, Sen." and "Brown, Jun."

Yours sincerely,

Southwick. GEO. FALLOWFIELD.

A Dog's Bravery

From R. Noble, of Middlesborough, comes an amazing story of a dog's intelligence and bravery.

Mrs. Noble was attending to the fire, when her skirt caught alight; not wanting to alarm her husband, she went quickly into the yard without telling him what had happened. The open air naturally fanned the flames and her clothes were well alight when their little terrier rushed at her and with its teeth dragged her burning garments off.

In the meantime, Noble, aware of heat, called to his wife, who returned to find the coconut matting ablaze. She dragged one end, the little dog seized the other, and between them they pulled it into the yard where it burnt itself out.

Mrs. Noble was very considerably shocked and badly scratched by the dog in its efforts to tear off her clothes, but, fortunately, not seriously injured.

National Laying Test

Position	Name	Test Score
1	T. Gregory	218
2	G. Jackson	189
3	T. M. Fisher	159
4	P. Holmes	129
5	C. McIntosh	122
6	D. McLaren	106
7	A. Jarvis	95
8	A. Chaffin	67
9	W. Alan Smith	38
10	M. Watson-Brown	26

Average per bird: Month, 11.65; To Date, 19.93.

Thirty Guineas in Prizes

Sir Ian Fraser has received from Mr. Sidney Horniblow, who writes under the name of David Mills, as a donation to St. Dunstan's, the sum of thirty guineas, being the fee which he received from *Good Housekeeping*, for an article which he recently wrote about our Chairman and St. Dunstan's. As this donation comes from a writer, Sir Ian has given it to the Editor to use for prize money or for paying for articles written by St. Dunstaners which are accepted for publication in this magazine.

The Editor is anxious that the REVIEW should reflect every aspect of St. Dunstan's life and nothing is more likely to achieve this object than contributions from St. Dunstaners themselves.

As the REVIEW has to be read aloud or read in braille, brevity is of the utmost importance. We will not, therefore, pay for copy according to its length, but until the gift is exhausted, we will pay one guinea for every contribution, whether it is an article or part of an article, or a poem, letter to the Editor, or even a short paragraph or comment, which is published. Routine news of St. Dunstaners and their families will not be paid for.

Only a few items will be paid for each month, so that the prize money will not be used up too quickly, and there will be plenty of time for overseas readers to make their contribution. Except in cases of exceptional merit, or interest, no St. Dunstaner can receive more than one prize in this particular feature.

Please be brief. The Editor will be more pleased to pay a guinea for one really good line than for fifty moderate ones.

Placements

J. Dear, with Messrs. Williams and Williams, Rock Ferry, as an assembler; L. J. MacKinnon, with Crystal Gears, Ltd., Wandsworth, as a capstan operator; H. Hocking, as a telephone operator with the Bacup Shoe Co., Bacup; G. S. Brooks, as a telephone operator with the Ministry of Transport, Bedford; Ron Smith, as a capstan operator with Messrs. T. W. Barfoot, Seaford; W. Shotter, on assembly work, with Standard Telephones, Ltd.; D. Juner, as a telephone operator with the Leicester Permanent Building Society; and John Taylor, with Newman Industries, Ltd., Yate, Bristol, on assembly.

The Chairman's Silver Jubilee

On December 12th, 1946, Sir Ian Fraser completed his twenty-fifth year as Chairman of St. Dunstan's, an event which was remembered by friends of St. Dunstan's throughout the Empire. Below are just a few of the many messages of congratulation which he received:

Very many congratulations on the completion of your 25 years' strenuous work as Chairman.
—MATRON PAIN.

All good wishes and congratulations on your 25th anniversary as Chairman.

—WEST HOUSE.

Men, Staff and Matron of Blackpool Home congratulate you most heartily on your 25 years' work as Chairman of St. Dunstan's. We send united greetings and thanks.

Heartiest congratulations and sincere good wishes from St. Dunstaners in New Zealand on your Silver Jubilee anniversary as Chairman of St. Dunstan's. Your leadership has been an inspiration to us all. May you long be spared to carry the Torch that has brightened the lives of so many.
—DONALD MCPHEE.

Heartiest congratulations on behalf of Scottish St. Dunstaners and myself on your Silver Jubilee as Chairman. Long may you live to continue as same.

—A. G. FISHER.

The Physiotherapists in my area send you hearty congratulations on attaining your Silver Jubilee as Chairman of St. Dunstan's. —G. A. JOLLY, Blackpool.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," January, 1917:

It had been intended on December 7th to have a debate on "Should Conscription be enforced in Ireland?" but the dramatic change of Government that took place just then caused the subject to be altered to, "Is Mr. Lloyd George the most desirable Premier?" Considerable knowledge of the position was displayed by the speakers and Curtis-Willson's brilliant wind-up will not soon be forgotten.

When put to the vote, the resolution was carried by 51 to 0, and the Chairman was instructed to send "a vote of the utmost confidence in Mr. Lloyd George's capacity to deal with the war in the most efficacious way."

Other News

A handless St. Dunstaner, who was injured while a prisoner in Japanese hands, Bill Griffiths, of Blackburn, has been granted a road haulage licence, and on January 10th, at Preston, a new 12-ton motor lorry and trailer was formally handed over to him at a little ceremony at which the Mayors of Preston and Blackburn were present. Sir Ian Fraser, who was on his way to his constituency of Lonsdale, was also present with Lady Fraser.

Bill's brother will do the driving and he will be in charge of the business side, including telephone orders and typewriting.

★ ★ ★

G. Fallowfield, of Southwick, has been made a life member of Shoreham Rowing Club in recognition of his good work in connection with various sports. He has been a member of the Club since 1932 although he no longer races.

★ ★ ★

At the Norfolk Chrysanthemum Show, H. Lane, of Babingley, won three first prizes, one second and two third prizes for assorted vegetables in the Special Section for blind gardeners.

★ ★ ★

J. Wood, of Grange-over-Sands, was also a prize winner in the Grange Allotment Association's recent competitions, and was among the chief prize winners in the Grange British Legion Christmas Handicaps. His game was threes and fives.

★ ★ ★

Mr. H. W. E. Dredge, Secretary of the British Legion Club, Yeovil, has brought to our notice the good work done by F. Westaway, of Yeovil. He recently made a mat which he presented to the Legion and which realised the sum of £10 5s. "Westaway," writes Mr. Dredge, "is loved and respected by everyone."

★ ★ ★

An Exhibition—the first ever to be staged by the British Legion—begins at the Central Hall, Westminster, London, on January 22nd, and will go on until February 1st. Every aspect of the Legion's work will be shown. In conjunction with the Exhibition, there is to be a series of reunions at which five thousand, five hundred ex-service men and women are expected to take part. The reunions are being presented as a good will gesture by the British Legion to the Old Comrades Associations of the Services.

Ovingdean Notes

On Friday, December 13th, Ovingdean held its first End of Term Concert since the return from Church Stretton. An ominous date, but we had placated the fates by having a trial run the previous night. Even so, our spirits were quelled by the failure of the electricity supply at 5.30, but rose again with the welcome return of the lights and power half an hour later. In spite of this setback, all was ready for the raising of the curtain at eight o'clock.

At Church Stretton the "Fol-de-Rols." At Ovingdean, to the rousing strains of "White Horse Inn," the curtain went up for the first time on the "Brytonics."

Then—welcome back to three of St. Dunstan's best known and best loved "stars"—Beryl Sleigh, Gwen Obern, and Tiny Hill Brown, all of whom had made special journeys to be with us again.

St. Dunstan's own Orchestra followed, with vocals by Joan Walch and Norman Nolde, and a trumpet solo by Allan Hold; and then there came three items which were billed on the programme as the Term's Novelties, and were in fact, remarkable performances. Bob Bickley, in his first public performance on the saxophone; Johnny Harris on his trumpet; and Norman Nolde, in a grand solo on his saxophone after only eight weeks' tuition.

During the interval, Sir Ian introduced an unexpected visitor, Major Tufton Beamish, M.P. for Lewes, and, as he said, their own Parliamentary representative since Ovingdean came into the Lewes constituency. Major Beamish said he had not enjoyed a concert so much since he went to the Prince of Wales Theatre in 1938.

Then the concert went on. One feature in particular brought down the house. "St. Dunstan's Guy-ed" (all characters fictitious with no resemblance to living persons). Roars greeted a buxom matron and a bearded commandant as they entered on a tandem; "Dr. Gruesome" giving expert advice to a doubtful patient; "Miss McTapestry" taking the English class; and a sporting I.T.O. who had a good opening for a bookmaker's clerk.

Our Polish girl trainee, Zofia Kiaszek, gave a wonderfully impressive delivery of Saint Joan's speech by Bernard Shaw. We

have since heard that Zofia has been accepted as a student by the Royal College of Dramatic Art.

So on to the Yuletide Melodies, beautifully sung by St. Dunstan's Choir, and then the Grand Finale.

The big Lounge was crowded to capacity with an audience which included Lady (Arthur) Pearson, D.B.E., Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, Sir John and Lady Ellerman, and Air Commodore and Mrs. G. Bentley Dacre.

Sir Ian spoke for everybody when he expressed warm thanks to the three producers, Bill Jennings, Phillip Woods and Hedley Morton, and to St. Dunstaners and members of the staff taking part. He congratulated men and staff on a successful year of work done (and not done!), and in settling down so well in their new quarters, and he wished good luck and prosperity to all those who were leaving.

Test Results

Advanced Braille Reading.—Arthur Finney.

Typewriting.—R. Ward.

Music

During your training days many of you derived great pleasure from learning to play a musical instrument, singing, or some form of musical activity. A questionnaire and letters on this subject have recently been sent to many of you, but our music records are, unfortunately, incomplete, and there may be a few of you, although keenly interested in music, who did not receive these communications. We are very anxious to help every St. Dunstaner, old war or new war, who wishes to continue, or revive, his music lessons at home.

Briefly, the scheme is this :—

1. Find a suitable teacher in your own home town area.
2. Arrange for 12 lessons.
3. Ask the teacher to send his bill direct to H.Q., and we will meet the cost.
4. Further instruction can be arranged, if desired, on completion of the initial course of twelve lessons.

Much time is wasted by forwarding your musical instruments to Ovingdean for minor repairs. In future, have them attended to locally by a reputable music dealer and we will refund the cost.

If you want any further help or advice do not hesitate to write to Mr. Mackay, Welfare Superintendent, at Headquarters.

Birmingham St. Dunstan's Club

On December 15th, the Birmingham St. Dunstan's Club held its Christmas Meeting, when twenty St. Dunstaners, with wives or escorts, Red Cross helpers and V.A.D.'s of camp days, Miss Fairhead, Hon. Secretary, Miss Gough, and Mr. Cooling, Hon. Treasurer, were present. Before tea, there were competitions and singing of old time tunes. The B.R.C.S. Hospitality Committee personally attended and provided a special meat tea and many other good things. There was then an entertainment and dance and Auld Lang Syne at 7 p.m.

The next meeting is on Sunday, Feb. 9th, and there will be another on Sunday, Mar. 9th.

★ ★ ★

Just a word about the history and activities of the Club.

Founded in 1921, regular monthly meetings were held till 1939. In the summer, the Club had monthly Sports meetings and in the winter, socials. In 1924, the first holiday camp was arranged. This gave members a chance to have a week's rowing in preparation for the Regatta at Putney. Teams were sent to compete at this and at field sports in London and Manchester against other St. Dunstan's clubs. In the winter, the members kept fit by competing in road walks in London and Manchester, and Birmingham had its own annual 15 miles Road Walk attended by St. Dunstaners from all over England.

From the time of the first walk, Messrs. W. W. Alexander, senior and junior, of the Birchfield Harriers, did everything for the Club. It was they who found us our best friends, Mr. Cooling and Mr. Murphy, of the Farcroft Hotel. What wonderful times we had at the Farcroft after the Walks.

Well, that was the past. What of the future? It lies with you of the younger generation. The organisation is there—the people to help—the interest. Won't you all come along and use the Club and get some sports and other things going again?

Don't forget the Holiday Camp Week still goes on—a much grander camp these days, because the Navy runs it for us. We should like to see more "young 'uns" at that, too. We can promise a week's fun that it would be difficult to get anywhere else. **AVIS SPURWAY, President.**

The Vicarage, Titchfield, Hants.

West House Notes

Our Christmas was very much saddened by the death of Billy Spencer who had been living with us for a long while and also the tragically sudden deaths of Bob Larcombe and Albert Waite who were to have spent Christmas with us.

Sunday, December 21st, was the occasion of the special Christmas Service held in our little Chapel, when solos were sung by Mrs. Mercer and Miss Ramsden, and carol part singing by our St. Dunstaners Bulley, Stevens, Northcott and Clevitt. The whole Service had been arranged and was conducted by Canon James, M.C. The Chapel was looking most attractive, the altar beautiful with the new cloth made by Sister Theresa, of St. Martha's Convent, and Christmas roses.

We started our festivities with a party on the 22nd, which was a huge success, even though a few of us did misunderstand the title of "Mixed Grill" and had dreams of steak and chips!!

A word of thanks here to Miss Reynolds, Mrs. Charlesworth, "Prim" and Orderly Howe, who formed our "Decorations Committee" and did a really magnificent job. They transformed a corner of the Conservatory into a "Regent's Park Corner," complete with a "magic pool" and "thatched cottage" (Lounge Sister's Office).

On Christmas Eve, W. A. Muggeridge produced his skit, "Snow White and the Seven Sisters." Well done, Author, Producer, Cast and Musicians!!

We were now well and truly in the Christmas spirit and on returning from Christmas Service at St. Anne's Church on the 25th, we were met, at precisely 11 a.m., by Santa Claus in the shape of H. Day. He appeared dragging his sleigh which was laden high with Christmas presents and we were each presented with a "Snowball" and a parcel. There we sat, with a glass of port in one hand—thanks to our old friends of the Grocers' Association—and the most wonderful Christmas gifts all around us. Just before lunch time we were delighted that Lady (Arthur) Pearson, Sir Neville and his wife came along to wish us all a Happy Christmas.

And now came the Christmas Dinner. There were almost a hundred of us sitting down. The tables were laden with plenty of good things to eat and drink, and

beautifully decorated. It was the good old traditional dinner with Turkey and Chestnut Stuffing, followed by Christmas Pudding and Rum Butter and the "Fraser Cup." Just how this was concocted, we have not been allowed to discover and understand it must remain a "West House secret."

A dance was arranged for Boxing Day, at which Matron Ouseley, in her own inimitable style, was our Commere, thus adding considerably to the fun.

On Saturday afternoon we were pleased to have many old friends at the Whist Drive for the local St. Dunstan's, and here we have an apology to make. Owing to the very big numbers we had to cater for over the Christmas, we were not able to give you local lads the "special tea" we had planned. We have, therefore, arranged for another Whist Drive, to take place on the afternoon of February 14th, and you will be receiving your invitations shortly.

A Quiz was arranged by Miss Melbourne for the evening of the 30th, at which Mr. John Hay was the Question Master. St. Dunstan's team consisted of Bob Young (Glasgow), Norman Cook, Bill Burnett and W. Muggeridge. The opposing team was made up of members of the Young Conservatives Association—it is sad to relate that they were definitely the winners!!

Our twelve day marathon had nearly reached its end. New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Ball was certainly the last word in gaiety. Among the guests we were delighted to welcome Commander and Mrs. Paul, Air Commodore and Mrs. Dacre, and Matron Lang from Park Crescent.

The costumes were really wonderful, The Committee of Judges had a difficult task in trying to decide the prize winners, but the lucky ones were:—

1st prize, Wally Thomas—as a V.A.D.

2nd „ Jimmy Fay—as Father Christmas.

3rd „ W. Abbott—as Mrs. Mop.

Consolation Prizes

W. Sheridan, J. Boyd, G. Taylor, A. Rahim, J. Steeley. Mrs. Malone presented the prizes.

Later in the evening, we were entertained by an ingenious "Tight Rope Act" the "star" performers being Air Commodore Dacre and Commander Paul. At midnight, we joined hands to sing "Auld Lang Syne" and toasted the New Year with our rum punch. House Steward Mason was our able and energetic M.C.

Blackpool Notes

This is Blackpool calling St. Dunstaners everywhere. New Year Greetings to one and all!!

On December 9th, our Chaplain again visited us to take the Memorial Service for our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson. It was a simple service, but all remembered the great work and fine example of Sir Arthur and each one still regrets his passing and reveres his memory.

Our Christmas festivities began on December 23rd, when a large party went to the Palace. On Christmas Eve we went along to the Opera House to enjoy Little Red Riding Hood, followed by a dance at the Home in the evening.

Then came Christmas Day! This was a "Super" day!

Everyone had a present from Santa off the Christmas Tree. The staff got mysterious looking parcels, and so did the wives. Each man was presented with a stocking containing a 10s. note, shaving soap, razor blades, sweets, cigarettes, matches, a tie, and either a pipe or beautiful leather wallet. A grand dinner was served at one o'clock, greatly enjoyed by all except Johnny, who had been out for a "quick one" which turned out to be a "sick one." The thanks of everyone go to Matron and the V.A.D.'s for the care they bestowed on the tables to make them look so lovely.

In the evening we had the marvellous party! Our old friend, Bill Hawketts, M.C.-ed us in his own inimitable way and the fun waxed fast and furious. Spot prize winners caused peals of laughter as they had to sing to get their prizes!! When a lady was singing "Tipperary" and the man "Pack Up Your Troubles" at the same time—well!! As I have remarked, the fun was fast and furious, so much so that for one moment it laid our physio-therapist and dispensary sister completely out. However, they were up at the count of one and the dance went on.

Boxing Day saw us dancing again, and on Friday the whole party went to a matinee at the Grand Theatre and to the Tower Restaurant for another grand dinner as guests of the Blackpool Rotary Club.

To wind up the revelries, Matron gave us a lovely party on New Year's Eve.

Good friends came forward and entertained us—songs by Mrs. Jones, Miss Pearl Yarwood, Mr. J. Walsh and the "Twins," not forgetting Professor Jolly and his much appreciated monologue. The high spot of the evening was the buffet supper, provided by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon, of the Bourne Hotel, and served by their daughters and staff. Home-made refreshment specially made by the Hotel Staff!

After supper—on with the dance, until a few minutes before midnight, when we all trooped out of the back door and serenaded Matron at the front door with carols. On the last stroke of midnight, Matron opened the door and extended a hearty New Year greeting to one and all, and read a prayer of thanks and a blessing on the House.

Finally, regaled with choc-ices and drinks, we had a sing-song until the early hours of 1947 and so home to bed.

Goodnight, fellow St. Dunstaners!

This is Blackpool closing down for this month.

ANON.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

The last event for 1946 took place on Saturday, December 14th, when a Bridge Drive was organised. There was quite a good attendance and the prizes were numerous and useful, ranging from rabbits to face-cream. An excellent tea was provided and there was a touch of Christmas about the whole proceedings.

It was with deep regret that we heard of the death of Albert Waite who passed away just before Christmas. Albert had been a member of the Club since its inception and had been a regular member of the team which had played at Harrogate for many years. Most Saturday afternoons he found his way to Park Crescent, and we shall miss him very much in the future. He has been in failing health for a long time, but nevertheless, his death came as a great shock to all of us. We express our very deep sympathy to his daughter, Muriel, in her sad bereavement.

R. P. COLES.

WEST HOUSE

A gift to Commander Paul which St. Dunstaners and West House Staff had subscribed, was sent to him with best wishes for the future on New Year's Day. We have received a very nice letter of appreciation from him.

“ In Memory ”

Corporal John Daniel Lee, 2nd Durham Light Infantry

We record with deep regret the death of J. D. Lee, of Sacriston.

He served with his regiment from November, 1914, and was wounded in France in July, 1918, coming to St. Dunstan's the same year. He was trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker, although he completed his training at home, and he carried on with this work for some years, but eventually was only able to do a little light netting. He had been ill for some weeks prior to his death, but he actually died in his own home.

The funeral took place at Sacriston Jubilee Methodist Church; he was laid to rest with full military honours, the coffin being draped with the Union Jack, and the bearers were men from his old regiment.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Sergeant Robert E. Larcombe, Northumberland Fusiliers

It is with deep regret that we record the death of our telephonist, R. E. Larcombe, of South Harrow, which occurred at West House, Brighton, on December 22nd.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1923, he was trained as a telephonist and his first and only job was with the Cornhill Insurance Company. His close association with that company and the affection in which he was held, can best be described in the following tribute to him from Mr. Claude Wilson, the General Manager :

“ When he came to us the staff was small and the work was light. As the company grew and as the staff increased, more and more work fell upon Larcombe, which he discharged with the utmost efficiency and outstanding courtesy. On the outbreak of war we evacuated to Guildford. Larcombe took an active part in organising a Concert Party which did much to provide pleasure to the staff compulsorily evacuated from their homes. His ability was outstanding. He became part of the organisation and his circle of friends extended beyond the staff. At all times during the past twenty years whenever I have picked up my telephone, Larcombe has been at the other end. I miss him very badly and in his death I have lost a loyal friend and colleague.”

Larcombe had not been very well for some time, but it was hoped that a holiday at Brighton would help him to get back to health. The funeral took place at Brighton Cemetery, many St. Dunstaners from West House and the Brighton District attending.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Larcombe and her son.

Private Albert Waite, 20th Cheshire Regiment

With deepest regret we record the death, also, of Albert Waite, of Chelsea.

Albert Waite came to us in March, 1920, and having been trained in basket-making, carried on with this occupation until 1929 when he began training in telephony.

He was a great personality, full of quips and light of heart, but the death of his wife in 1928 and the tragic loss of his boy in an air crash in January, 1945, contributed greatly to a gradual breakdown in health and early in 1946, he was forced to give up telephony altogether.

It was arranged for him to spend Christmas at West House and he travelled down on December 20th. He was taken ill shortly afterwards and he died there on Christmas Eve.

Many Brighton comrades attended the funeral at Brighton Cemetery where he was laid to rest beside his friend, Larcombe.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his daughter, now married.

Births

COPELAND.—On December 18th, to the wife of L. Copeland, of Winton, Bournemouth, a daughter, Valerie.

COUPLAND.—On January 9th, to the wife of R. Coupland, of Hull, a daughter—Susan.

THEOBALD.—On December 31st, to the wife of R. Theobald, of Redhill, a daughter, Elizabeth.

VENESS.—On December 25th, to the wife of W. V. Veness, of Brighton, a son—Christopher John.

Marriages

COPE—EVANS.—On Dec. 22nd, H. Cope, of Stoke-on-Trent, to Miss Irene Evans.

LITTLEJOHN—BACK.—On January 3rd, D. Littlejohn, of Seaford, to Miss Marjorie Back, late of the Chairman's Office. Mr. C. E. Beaufoy, of Dover (“Grandpa” Beaufoy), uncle of the bride, gave her away.

SHEA—PEPPER.—On December 28th, W. F. Shea, of Liverpool, to Miss Joan Pepper.

House of Commons Branch, British Legion

Sir Ian Fraser has been re-elected Chairman of the House of Commons Branch of the British Legion. Sir Ian, at the branch annual meeting, intimated his intention not to seek re-election and proposed that the office should be held by members of the different parties in turn. Speaking on behalf of the Labour members, Captain G. H. C. Bing said while they accepted that principle, he was going to move that Sir Ian was the first and obvious choice under the new system.

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to :

Mr. & Mrs. A. James, New Eltham, Jan. 7.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 336—VOLUME XXXI [New Series] FEBRUARY, 1947

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

PRESENTATION TO SIR IAN FRASER

Made by Mr. Churchill at New Year Dance

ST. Dunstaners of two wars met at the Seymour Hall, London, on Thursday, January 23rd, for their New Year's Dance, an occasion which was of special importance for two reasons—it was the first Reunion of the London men since 1939, and it was to be the occasion of a presentation to Sir Ian Fraser by Mr. Winston Churchill of a gift from the men of St. Dunstan's to mark his 25th anniversary as Chairman of St. Dunstan's.

In spite of the severity of the weather, there were nearly five hundred people present at the Hall, but everyone deeply regretted that the Brighton contingent, with whom also were the representatives of Wales (J. M. Lucocq), the North-West Area (T. Milner), North-East Area (F. Crabtree), the Midlands (W. Trott), the Southern Area (W. Lowings), and the South-West Area (R. Sheehan), who were travelling up to London by coach, had been held up by the snow and ice at Handcross, near Crawley, and had had to return to Brighton.

Representative St. Dunstaners who were able to get to the Hall were J. Boyce (Ireland), C. McIntosh (Scotland), H. Edge (North-West Area), P. Sumner (Midlands), and A. I. Gwyn (Eastern Area).

At eight o'clock, a roll of drums announced that Mr. Churchill had arrived, and there was a rush to the platform at the end of the big Hall to give him a warm

welcome. With Mr. Churchill and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, were Lady (Arthur) Pearson, our President, Sir Neville Pearson, Miss Hamar Greenwood, Matron Pain, Air Commodore and Mrs. Bentley Dacre, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony MacDonald, Captain William Appleby, Lieut. Col. Eric Ball, Major General John Hay Beith, Sir Brunel Cohen, Mr. Edwin Fisher, Mr. Askew, and the four members of the Presentation Committee, Messrs. N. A. Ramsden and W. Sheridan, representing men of 1914-1918, and Messrs. A. Finney and A. H. H. Brown, representing those of the recent war.

Sir Neville Pearson, presiding, said that for all of those present, it was a tremendous occasion. They were all deeply grateful and were deeply conscious of the honour that was being done to them in that the presentation, which was in commemoration of 25 years of devoted service, was being made "by our country's most distinguished citizen to our country's most distinguished blind man." He called on Mr. N. A. Ramsden, chairman of the Committee organising the presentation, to propose good health to Mr. Churchill and to tell everyone what the presentation was about.

Mr. Ramsden said that the suggestion that the presentation should be made to Sir Ian had met with "a spontaneous and magnificent" response from all parts of the British Empire. More than £400 had been subscribed. Sir Ian had said that

it would give him and Lady Fraser great pleasure to receive from his St. Dunstan's friends a gift of table silver to replace some of that lost when his house was destroyed in 1944. As, however, that would be difficult in present times, a token presentation of a walking stick, suitably engraved, would be presented to him by Mr. Churchill.

There was tremendous applause when Mr. Churchill rose to speak. He said, "I am very glad to have been chosen for the part of carrying out your wishes tonight. It is many years since I first became associated with St. Dunstan's; in fact, nearly twenty years have passed. I knew its Founder and I have always been deeply stirred by this cause, and I feel it very gratifying that you should have invited me to come here this evening.

"My old friend and colleague in the House of Commons, Sir Ian Fraser, has served you well. For twenty-five years he has devoted himself to the cause of those who suffer a grievous sorrow and deprivation. By his high character and dauntless spirit he has shown how such injuries can be conquered and how vital, happy lives can be lived in spite of what to those who have the gift of vision, seems to be an overwhelming calamity. There are the beauties of the inner vision, but these would not suffice without bold pioneers who march forward and show how thousands of men and women who have lost their eyesight, many as a sacrifice for the life of their country, can play important parts, valuable parts, in the whole social, moral and political life of our island.

For twenty-five years, Ian Fraser has served you courageously and I have seen him on so many occasions devoting himself to all this work, not only for those who have lost their eyes and sight, but for all ex-servicemen in this country and throughout the Empire, to whom our undying gratitude is due."

Mr. Churchill then handed the stick to Sir Ian saying, "This is a symbol of your gratitude to him and a crutch to aid him, not only in finding his way about, but in disposing of anybody who stands between him and the high purpose he serves."

Mr. Churchill then picked up a bouquet of flowers from the table and handed them to Lady Fraser, and, addressing St. Dunstaners

once again, he said, "Keep fighting the good fight, and carry on to increased success. We all owe a great debt to this man who has found the way and shown the way to extract from the heart of affliction the means of grace and the hope of glory."

Sir Ian Fraser received a great ovation when he rose. He said:

"May I thank you, Lady Pearson, widow of our Founder, and you, Sir Neville, for presiding and for giving your support to these proceedings. I should like to express the deep sense of gratitude which I feel to you, Lady Pearson, and to your husband's memory which is cherished by St. Dunstaners and by other blind people all over the world.

"You have been kind enough, Mr. Churchill, to praise the work which has fallen to my lot to do, and I ask you to accept my very sincere thanks for those words. But the success of St. Dunstan's has rested upon the shoulders of many people and primarily upon those of the men who have been blinded in the two wars and who through their courage, their loyalty and adaptability, and their determination to continue to serve their country in peace as they did in war, have made St. Dunstan's notable, and I would like to thank them for their loyalty and friendship all through the years.

"I would like to pay my special tribute to their wives. It must be difficult to be married to any man (laughter), but much more difficult to be married to a blind man. We owe our wives a very great deal. I owe a very great deal to mine. 'Mavro,' who was with us on St. Dunstan's Council for so long until his death recently, once said, 'Some women have charm; others have sense; but very few have both.' But, he would say, one that he knew was Lady Fraser."

Sir Ian went on, "The success of St. Dunstan's would not have been attained were it not for the staff—the old staff who have been with us from the beginning, and of whom Lady Fraser, Mrs. Chadwick Bates, my secretary, Miss Goole, and Miss Coultate, are among the few who remain.

"I should like to pay tribute also, to the secretary of St. Dunstan's, Mr. Askew, who has helped so many St. Dunstaners and is always ready with his help and advice.

"Mr. Churchill has presented me with a walking stick—a sign of authority, perhaps, but it is the authority of St. Dunstan's.

"This stick is a token of the gift you have given me. You will understand that we wanted to choose something that will be a lifelong pleasure to us. When our grandson inherits the silver, its beauty will appeal to him, but it will be all the more valuable to him by having among the pieces one that bears upon it the inscription that it was presented to his grandfather by one of the most famous men England has known—Mr. Churchill.

"I rejoice to think that of the war-blinded men, 89 per cent. have joined in this presentation to me. I thank not only the men of this country, but in the Dominions overseas. I appreciate more than I can say, your kindness and your affection. I know I have the confidence of the Council and the men of two wars. I will go on giving the best part of my time and the best part of my thought to your service so long as I have your confidence.

"Thank you all for your kindness and for this presentation. My wife and I join in wishing you all the very best of good fortune and good luck."

After the cheering had died down, Sir Neville Pearson called upon Mr. A. H. H. Brown ("Tiny" Brown), who expressed on behalf of all St. Dunstaners their thanks to Mr. Churchill for coming there that evening.

When Mr. Churchill left the platform, St. Dunstaners formed a guard of honour.

Then the band struck up, and dancing began and continued until eleven o'clock, although more people seemed to be talking than dancing. The New Year's Dance was, in fact, just what it was intended to be—a grand London Reunion.

Winners of the spot prizes were Sammy Webster and Mrs. Kerr, D. Cockerill and his daughter, Mrs. Milson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lacey, Mr. and Mrs. Hedger, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Ollington, Jimmy Wright and Miss Gladys Prior, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Higginson.

A film of the presentation was shown on the Paramount News at hundreds of cinemas all over the country.

WANTED

DECEMBER "REVIEWS."—The Editor would be very glad indeed for unwanted copies of the REVIEW of December, 1946.

Deaf Blind Watch Fund

This Fund, as my St. Dunstan's friends will know, was started early in 1945 by our old friend, Mr. Ottaway, and since that date, the magnificent sum of £300 has been subscribed, almost entirely by St. Dunstan's men. The object of the Fund was to supply Braille Watches to the civilian deaf-blind, and it was suggested that I, as Honorary Treasurer, should make an appeal once a year for subscriptions through the medium of the REVIEW.

I have to date been able to send to the National Deaf Blind Helpers' League, 62 watches for distribution to deaf blind persons, and I need hardly tell you of the enormous pleasure these have given as in nearly every case, the recipients have been awaiting a watch for years.

Many St. Dunstaners have sent me donations during the past year and I am not asking them to send again now, but if any of my St. Dunstan's friends would like to forward a shilling or half-a-crown, I shall be grateful. The cost of a Braille watch has increased to £5 14s. 9d., and as the National Deaf Blind Helpers' League have reviewed their list during the past few months and tell me that there are some 150 deaf-blind persons who have no watch, it will be seen that there is still much work for this little fund to do.

W. G. ASKEW.

In the Tiger's Den

One day, when visiting Whipsnade Zoo, I suddenly found myself being led down a steep flight of narrow steps.

As I learnt afterwards, a keeper, who had noticed my St. Dunstan's badge, had put up a warning finger for silence, and beckoned to my wife for us to follow him.

Soon I heard a door being unlocked, and realised that I was being taken into an underground chamber. The keeper said to me, "Hold out your arms," and the next thing I knew was that I was holding a furry animal of some weight. When the creature began to growl gently, I said in some alarm, "What have I got here?" and I was told that it was a four months old tiger that had been born in the zoo, one of two survivors from a litter of four. When we re-visited Whipsnade a few weeks later, we found the young tiger behind bars; his little brother had died.

Dunstable.

H. ROLT.

West House Notes

After our somewhat riotous Christmas, we were, for the most part, quite content to have a few quiet days at the opening of this month in which to recuperate.

On January 5th, we were pleased to have Messrs. Laidlaw and Richardson with us again, bringing with them another lively selection of records which we all enjoyed.

In the second week of the month, our new Commandant, Mr. L. Fawcett, arrived to take up his duties at West House. Already well-known to many St. Dunstan's campers as "Skipper," he was given a sincere welcome by men and staff. Within a very short time, he was helping us with Spelling Bees and Play-readings—to the Staff's relief and the men's enjoyment!!

We have been most fortunate this month in receiving several invitations to outside functions and we should like to thank Mrs. Spamford, Mr. Prior of the "Dog Tray" and the "Creamery," Rottingdean, for their wonderful hospitality.

Amusements in Brighton were many. "Tuesday Night at the Dome" and the Symphony Concerts still attract a large number from West House. We want to thank Councillor Nicholls for his kindness in arranging for a number of us to have free seats on "Tuesday Nights" and also Messrs. Lyon and Hall for giving us seats at the Symphony Concerts.

The less said the better about the trip to London for Sir Ian's presentation. Those who went by rail thoroughly enjoyed meeting many old friends as well as the experience of once again hearing Winston Churchill speak and being able to congratulate Sir Ian personally. For those who were marooned in the 'bus the Commandant and Matron arranged a happy evening at the Adelphi Hotel, Brighton, the following night, which almost made up for the big disappointment.

Then the very bad weather began and so, partly because of that and partly because many men went off to bed for a few days suffering from 'flu, we were forced to postpone the Concert which was to have been given by the Ditchling Players.

On January 28th, although the snow was very deep and it was bitterly cold, a heroic little party came along from the Florence Moore Studios. They gave a nicely balance programme which suited all tastes

and although our audience was rather small, they were certainly most appreciative.

Lack of space last month caused the printer to leave out our thanks to Mrs. Docking for her wonderful patience, energy and skill in fitting out the men with their New Year's Eve fancy dress costumes.

So to the end of one more month. We'll be back again in February.

From Mrs. Dunphy

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS,

I think 1947 is to be my lucky year. I have always wished for an antique bow-fronted chest of drawers and your beautiful present arrived on New Year's Day. You can imagine what a thrill I got.

Thank you for this lovely gift; apart from its beauty, which is a joy to me, I look on it as a memento of the many happy years I have spent with you and as such, it is especially precious.

Thank you, too, for your kind letters and personal gifts which I treasure.

I shall look forward to meeting you at future Re-unions, and I wish you and your splendid wives and families the very best of luck for the future.

Always yours affectionately,

EDNA M. DUNPHY.

"And So to Work"

Percy Ashton, telephonist, and Charles Cooper, physiotherapist, represented St. Dunstan's at there habilitation exhibition, "And So To Work," recently held in London. Their demonstrations caused great interest among the thousands of people who visited the exhibition.

Princess Catherine of Greece

Tembani St. Dunstaners will hear with interest that the engagement has been announced of Princess Catherine of Greece, to Major R. Brandram, M.C., of the Royal Artillery. The Princess is known to all Tembanians as "Sister Catherine."

Our Prize Competition

As announced last month, a prize of one guinea is awarded to the sender of a published article, apart from routine reports. This month's prizewinners are J. A. Mudge, of Tottenham, H. Rolt, of Dunstable, and E. H. North, of Taunton ("Gen.").

Wilfred Pickles at Ovingdean

On February 5th, "Have a Go," the popular Wilfred Pickles quiz programme, was recorded at the Ovingdean Home and will be broadcast on the Light Programme on March 12th or 19th.

'39 And All That

During the early part of the war, a "rookie" still, despite my three stripes, it was my fortune to be stationed in the Fen country, attached to a company of the R.Es. who were manning searchlights in the muddy flats of the countryside near Ely.

As R.A.M.C. N.C.O., with a very under-strength staff, I often had to make late journeys by car or ambulance to the outposts and sometimes got back late to the camp, where, as at all good camps, peace and calm reigned after 10.30 p.m.

One wintry night I arrived back shortly before midnight, and went hopefully to the mess kitchen where I knew I should find my supper kept hot for me—if the guard hadn't found it first. My luck was in; the supper was there; and, satisfied and tired, I started on the long walk across the snow-covered field to my own hut, the Regt. Medical Post, where I slept on call in a comfy hospital cot. The moon was shining brightly and under the silver light everything was beginning to look very eerie when, to my horror a large dark animal came bounding towards me over the snow, its two eyes flashing. A fearsome apparition it was, emitting stentorian growls—or so they seemed to me. I felt my hair stiffen. There was nowhere for me to take cover. I and the Thing were all alone in the moonlit field. And I was more than a little relieved to find as it rushed at me that it was nothing worse than a Newfoundland dog whose deep growlings seemed to pass into friendly greeting at its delight at meeting another living creature in the snowy waste.

I proceeded on my way with my new friend who appeared to have taken a great liking to me. That at least was what I thought; but I was on a false scent.

Arrived at the hut, I could not succeed in impressing on my new companion that the hut was sacred to the sick and their attendants. He insisted on entering with me. Once inside, he jumped joyously on to my bed. Nothing could move

him. Neither coaxings nor threats availed. He obviously found the bed very comfortable. But it was a comfort for which I too longed. So I had to resort to low cunning. I spread a couple of old blankets on the ground in front of the coke stove and tried to entice my canine trespasser to use these as his couch. Nothing doing. He just wagged two feet of tail and, when I approached with a foolish thought of lugging him off my bed, he just growled in a somewhat disturbing way. Then a happy thought came. I put a dixie lid of "Patients' Milk" on the top of the stove and started to undress. When I was ready, I put the milk on the blankets and as the dog leapt down to drink, I leapt into bed. He gave up after that. Having had his drink, he just looked at me, then stretched his great body on the blankets and soon there was peace in the hut.

Next morning we went to breakfast together in the Sergeants' Mess, and, after we had both had a hearty meal, he went on duty with me. But this, of course, could not go on. Having now made real friends, he let me read the name on his collar and I found he was owned by a publican in the neighbouring town. So, with the help of a piece of rope, he was conveyed to his owner by one of my orderlies.

I frequently saw him afterwards and he always greeted me in friendly fashion, remembering, perhaps, that he owed me for a bed and breakfast—not to mention a supper of "Patients' Milk." It was a pleasant little adventure, but the point that rankles is that it was the orderly who took him back who was rewarded with half-a-crown.

Tottenham, N.17. JOHN A. MUDGE.

Thirty Years Ago

From the *St. Dunstan's Review*, February, 1917

"Rowing men will be interested to hear that in the 1916 season they had out no fewer than 3,054 boats on the Regent's Park lake. This makes practically an average of ten for every working day in the year, and as we all know, there are many days when the weather will not permit us to row at all, it means something very much higher. It will not be long now before the early boating will start anew, and the boys will begin practising for the first race meeting, which will be held in April."

Headquarters to Move at the End of the Year

We have to announce that our Headquarters Offices will be moving again, but this time, we hope it will be for good, or at any rate, for the lifetime of most of us. No move will, however, take place until at least the end of the year, on account of the many alterations that have to be made to our new offices and the difficulties of getting licences, labour and materials in these times.

The houses in Park Crescent, which form our present Headquarters, are not suitable for permanent offices and are only held on a temporary lease, but they were the best we could get when our Regent's Park offices were destroyed by air raids, and they have served us tolerably well.

In the early 1920's, the whole of St. Dunstan's organisation was concentrated at St. John's Lodge, Regent's Park, in the big house and outbuildings nearby. Then we gave up the big house and for some years our organisation was divided, the office side being in the outbuildings in Regent's Park, and what might be called the works side being at Raglan Street.

In the forthcoming move, which, as we have said, we hope will last for a long time, we have tried to concentrate once again the works and the office sides in so far as they affect St. Dunstaners, because in practice, we have found that very many St. Dunstaners write to us in the same letter about their raw materials, or other aspects of their home occupation, and also about purely welfare matters. It was administratively inconvenient to have to break down these letters into their various elements, but more important still, it was inconvenient to the St. Dunstaner himself to have to go to two places to see the members of the staff with whom he had to do business. So in the new arrangement we looked for a building big enough to hold everything. We did not fully succeed, for very big buildings are extremely difficult to find nowadays, owing to the destruction of the war, and we limited our search to the Baker Street area, because it is so familiar to St. Dunstaners and to our staff and to the public. We have been fortunate to secure a big building at 191 Marylebone Road, which belonged to Queen Charlotte's Hospital, but was vacated by them just before the war broke

out. The building is a sound structure, but will want much repair work and modernisation.

In addition, we have been fortunate to secure a long lease at a nominal rent of a big house at No. 1 South Audley Street. It is our intention to concentrate practically all St. Dunstan's organisation in 191 Marylebone Road, which will in due time become the new St. Dunstan's Headquarters. South Audley Street will be used for an Appeals and Publicity Office, the Chairman's Office, and the Council's and Committees' board-rooms.

The only part of St. Dunstan's organisation that cannot be fitted into these two buildings will be the Mat Department and some of our heavy raw material stocks, which will be near at hand.

With the Marylebone Road property are three cottages, at present under requisition to the Local Authority, which will eventually be used for a residential hostel to take the place of the present No. 8 Park Crescent, the house to which St. Dunstaners can come and stay for a night or two when they are on their way to Brighton, or are visiting us on business, or for medical or other reasons. There will also be at Marylebone Road, some club rooms where those passing through London and those living in London and the Home Counties can come up to meet each other and join in club life, including an occasional whist drive, bridge club, or musical evening.

The Marylebone building is 1,200 yards going west from Baker Street and within 500 yards of Edgware Road. This is a little further away than we would have wished, but in actual fact, it is nearer to Baker Street than was the old Headquarters in Regent's Park.

We wish we could have got one big building in a slightly better position, but although we searched every street and had the very best professional help, the ideal building in the ideal situation could not be obtained. However, when we settle down, the new arrangements will, we think, prove satisfactory to all concerned and will be particularly convenient to St. Dunstaners themselves, which is, after all, the one thing that really matters.

For some years, we shall have to maintain a hostel in London for physiotherapy students, and it may be that, for a time, No. 12 Park Crescent, will not prove to

be big enough. We are considering the various alternatives, including the retention of No. 12, and the conversion of No. 11

Letters to the Editor

Writer for the Non-Brailist

Mr. J. E. P. "St. Dunstan's Review."



Mr. Winston Churchill presents the token walking stick to Sir Ian Fraser, on behalf of St. Dunstaners all over the Empire, on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as Chairman of St. Dunstan's

Lady Fraser is behind Sir Ian, with Sir Neville Pearson (left) and Lady (Arthur) Pearson (centre)

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Headquarters to Move at the End of the Year

We have headquarters (at this time, at any rate) No move at least till the many to our new getting li these time

The headquarters form our suitable only held were the Regent's raids, and

In the Dunstan's at St. John the big Then we some year office side Regent's the works

In the we have s time, we again the so far as t in practice St. Dunstan letter about aspects of about public administration break down elements, inconvenient to have members do business we look hold ever for very difficult destructive search to is so famous staff and fortunate Marylebone Queen vacated h

out. The building is a sound structure, but will want much repair work and modernisation

be big enough. We are considering the various alternatives, including the retention of No. 12, and the conversion of No. 11 into an additional hostel. Information about this will be released in due course, but students may be assured that provision will be made for their residence in London while they are undergoing their training in Great Portland Street.

Blackpool Notes

After the excitement of the Christmas and New Year festivities, January has passed in a quieter vein, but nevertheless, has had its pleasures.

Visits have been paid each Monday evening to the Palace of Varieties, and on Wednesday afternoons to the Grand Theatre.

The usual dances have been held on Tuesday and Friday evenings and Domino Tournaments on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

On January 10th, an invitation came from the R.A.F. Association for two men to attend their annual dinner and was thoroughly enjoyed by the lucky two.

On January 15th, the same Association invited all the "boys" to a Social Evening, which was very much enjoyed by all, and we were transported to and from the gathering by taxi.

After a visit to the Grand Theatre on January 22nd, a party of fourteen men and escorts enjoyed an excellent tea at the Savoy Restaurant.

At the moment, our numbers at Blackpool are small, but our spirits are great and we are enjoying the breezes in large quantities.

RODNEY.

Placements

C. F. Cooke, with the Riggs Engineering Co., Urmston, on jig drilling; J. Cruse, as a telephonist with the Ministry of Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. F. Alton, on assembly work, with Messrs. Martin Hearn, Hooton, Cheshire; H. Pierrepont, as a telephonist with the L.N.E.R.; Bert Green, with Messrs. R. A. Jenner, Brighton, on upholstery; E. Simpson, as a capstan operator, with Messrs. Gresham and Craven, Salford; F. A. E. Hawes, on assembly, with Messrs. Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies, Ipswich; T. Walter, as caretaker for the War Office in Rochester.

Grandfather

T. W. Groves, of Oxford.

Letters to the Editor

Writer for the Non-Braillist

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR SIR,

In the December REVIEW I noticed a suggestion about a machine to enable anybody not familiar with braille to write a braille letter to a friend. It seems to me that any intelligent person, provided with a diagram of braille characters, as printed on the covers of most Braille magazines, can knock off a readable letter with the aid of a Stainsby-Wayne machine. I realise that these machine are not easy to come by at present, but it ought to be simpler to supply a limited number than to produce an entirely new machine. I well remember when I was away from home in training, spending an amusing hour with "Carlo" puzzling out a message that had been transcribed in the manner described above on a Braille Shorthand machine by my son.

Yours sincerely,

S. A. CHAMBERS.

W. Lowings, of Chandler's Ford, writes to suggest a device based on a metal revolving ring on which are the letters of the braille alphabet, the user "dialling" the letters, then using a key to depress the letters as in the ordinary braille machine.

Sir Ian writes:

"I have no doubt that a machine could be made to enable a sighted person to write braille on the principle of the Simplex typewriter. It is something like Lowing's idea, namely, a round disc with letters on its edge. You turned this round until the letter you required was opposite a certain slot and then pressed it down. Even such a machine as this, or based upon Lowing's idea, would cost many pounds to make and I doubt very much if there would be any demand for it."

St. Dunstan's Research Sub-Committee has since considered this matter and Mr. P. B. Nye reports as follows:

"A prototype of a machine to enable a sighted person to write braille without a knowledge of braille would cost in the region of £100; if the machine was in the form of a typewriter, it would be just as easy for the wife to learn braille and use a braille machine as it would for her to learn typewriting so that she could use the machine. It would be impossible

unless it was done electrically, owing to the difference in finger pressure for writing braille as compared with what is necessary for a typewriter. As a result, the Committee have decided that we should not experiment with this."

Tasmanian St. Dunstan's Fine Record

25 Years in Politics

The following is an extract from the *Hobart Mercury* of November 1st, which has just reached us. It concerns Captain Frank Marriott, C.M.G., M.H.A., who came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1917, and stayed with us for about a year before returning to his own country.

"After what is probably an Empire record for a blind man in continuous Parliamentary office, Mr. Frank Marriott will retire from the House of Assembly this month. He has been a notable figure in the House for a quarter of a century.

"Mr. Marriott's commanding presence and resonant voice would have attracted attention to him at any time, and the fact that he has been totally blind for 30 years had given him an added dignity and developed a sixth sense which has been an asset to him as a legislator.

"To have successfully contested seven elections in 25 years is a record that any man with normal faculties might well recall with pride, but Mr. Marriott had this war disability to overcome as well.

"My 25 years in politics have been most interesting," he said yesterday. "Everyone has been wonderfully kind to me, irrespective of their political creed. Only this week the Premier said to me, 'I am really sorry that you are not coming back to the House.'"

"I was 70 last June," he said. "I tried to practise what I preach by trying to get out of it in 1941 when I was 65, but I was prevailed upon to stand once more."

"Mr. Marriott told how he grasped all the legislation and was able to speak freely and with authority in the House.

"He brought bills home and had them read to him. He indicated the important clauses and these were read and re-read to him. Finally, he typed them out himself and they became impressed indelibly on his mind.

"Often I could quote the salient clauses of a bill word for word," he said.

"I will not be out of a job," Mr. Marriott added.

"He is chairman of the State committee for the care of the war blind, chairman of the committee of the Northern Tasmanian Sanatorium, and a member of the board of management of the Blind Institution, the Diocesan Council, and the Council of Patronage of the Church of England.

"Mr. Marriott said his wife for many years had provided him with the means of keeping in touch with current affairs. 'She literally has read volumes to me,' he said.

"It was a proud moment for Mr. Marriott when the name of his son, Mr. F. A. Marriott, appeared on the list of the endorsed candidates for Bass for the forthcoming election.

"He came to Tasmania in 1903 and took up farming. He joined the A.I.F. in 1915, and was an officer in the 12th Battalion. He served in Egypt and France and lost both his eyes when hit by a German bullet at Baupause in 1917.

"He was Chief Scout Commissioner in Tasmania, from 1928 to 1932, and Federal President of Toc H for several years."

Other News

H. Marsden, of Fordingbridge, well known as a dog breeder, went recently to Salisbury Show, where he met some old breeding friends. As a result of this meeting, a club has been formed, The Southern and Provincial Bull Terrier Club, and Marsden has been appointed secretary.

★ ★ ★

The John Milton Society for the Blind, of New York, offer two religious braille magazines to St. Dunstaners, free of charge. They are "The John Milton Magazine" and "Discovery." Application should be made to the General Secretary, John Milton Society for the Blind, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, U.S.A.

★ ★ ★

W. Burgin, of Brighton, has built himself a front garden wall. Next spring he plans to extend it down the side of the house. The *Empire News* gave him a nice little "write-up" on his feat.

Important

In order that full food supplies may be obtained, visitors to Blackpool and Brighton Homes *must* bring ration books in which pages G. T. L. M and K, and points pages, are complete for the weeks in question.

From Australia

We have had the pleasure recently, of meeting at Park Crescent, Mrs. Williams, the wife of our St. Dunstaner, H. J. Williams, of Melbourne. Unfortunately, Mrs. Williams has had to return home earlier than she anticipated, as her husband is ill. We wish her a safe journey and her husband a speedy and complete recovery.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations upon their anniversaries to :—

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Meighen, of Dulwich Hill, November 9th; Mr. and Mrs. Vere Jones, Lostock Graham, December 24th; Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Pratt, Merton Park, February 12th; Mr. and Mrs. H. Dakin, of Blackpool, March 25th.

Marriage

COWAN—LUCIONI.—On January 11th, J. C. Cowan, of Birmingham, to Miss Evelyn Marjorie Lucioni.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

On May 25th, A. R. Jarman (Bournemouth), to Miss Marjorie Runyard.

On May 3rd, Ada Capstick (Lancaster), to Arnold Edmunds, Canadian R.A.F.

May Davies (Wrexham), on July 6th, to Irwin Povah.

On June 18th, James Butler (Waterford), to Miss Winifred Boyce, and on June 28th, Julia Butler to Eric Crawford.

In December last, Charles Puddefoot (Worthing), to Miss Eileen Tebay.

On June 29th, Laura Thompson (Bolton), to John Hart.

On August 13th, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scrimgeour (Middlesbrough).

Edward Milliss (Sevenoaks), on July 6th, to Miss Eleanor Mytton.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Murray (Hawick), on July 17th.

On August 27th, Winifred McCarthy (Stretford), to P/O W. D. S. Bailly.

On March 16th, Eleanor Meckin (Workington), to Adam Doggart, and on August 10th, Harry Meckin, to Miss Mary Berwick.

Jean Margaret Black (Gateshead) on September 9th, to S. Speake.

Charles Nelson (Newcastle) on August 28th, to Barbara Cash.

Robert Brignal (Brighton) on July 5th, to Joan Collier.

Arthur Stanley Owen (Liverpool) on September 21st, to Kathleen Fletcher.

Jack Boothman (Salford) to Lilian Withey, on October 26th.

Josephine Taylor (Shepshed) in October, to Joseph Kynoch.

Joyce Nash (St. Leonards-on-Sea) on September 14th, to Wilfred Felton.

Jack Simpson (Osmondthorpe) to Betty Greenop.

Yvonne Girling (Southampton) on October 15th, to Dr. Evan L. James, late R.N.V.R.

Ronald Skelly (Batley) in September.

On November 14th, Eileen Johns (Chesterfield) to Staff Sergt. William Hill.

On November 25th, Willie Martin (Bray) to Miss Kathleen Nolan.

On November 9th, Gladys Baker (Caernarvon) to L.A.C. George Benns.

Promotion

John Perrett (Devizes), now in the Far East, to Petty Officer.

Egg Laying Test

December 9th, 1946 to January 5th, 1947

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Gregory, T. ...	312
2	Jackson, G. ...	279
3	Fisher, T. M. ...	228
4	Holmes, Percy ...	216
5	McIntosh, Charles ...	204
6	McLaren, David ...	195
7	Jarvis, Albert ...	159
8	Chaffin, Albert ...	138
9	Smith, W. Alan ...	71
10	Watson-Brown, M. ...	65
Average per bird, 34.81.		

Ovingdean Notes

Four coaches left Ovingdean and West House for London to attend the Reunion Dance and Presentation to the Chairman on January 23rd. Unfortunately, owing to severe weather conditions, they were unable to proceed farther than Handcross Hill, where an obstruction was met, and the party had to turn back, after being on the road for nearly five hours. The men were very disappointed to miss the function.

Ovingdean is fortunate in having a standby electric light plant which has been able to maintain essential services during the times of electricity cuts. The machinery in the Workshops was affected, but the Workshops had to be abandoned for other reasons—gas heating pressures went down and made the temperature too cold, and condensation on the ceiling has not yet been overcome, so that a steady stream of drops, coupled with the very low temperature, makes it impossible to work, even without the electricity cuts. There have been some anxious moments over the fuel supplies, when the coke bunkers have on more than one occasion gone down to less than a day's supply, and the road up to Ovingdean, covered with snow, has almost stopped supplies from reaching the building.

"Bunny" Greatrex left Ovingdean on Monday last for an estate in Devon, where he is to receive extensive training in Pedigree Dairy Herd Management. The best wishes of his colleagues and the staff go with "Bunny."

Wilfrid Pickles, the well-known B.B.C. broadcaster, with a team of engineers and assistants, visited Ovingdean on Wednesday, February 5th, to make a recording for his "Have a Go" series of broadcasts. Eight trainees were interviewed at the "mike" and many bright answers were forthcoming to Mr. Pickles' questions—some so "bright" indeed, that we feel certain that they will be cut from the broadcast which will be made on the 12th or 19th March (see *Radio Times*). Norman Daniels "brought the house down," when, in reply to the question, "Who would you like to be if you had to be somebody else?" he said, "My girl-friend."

"Love from a Stranger," the play by Frank Vosper, was read before a large and attentive audience on Sunday, February 2nd. Miss Berry, in charge of Movement

Control, gave a particularly fine reading of the leading woman's part, and other parts were read by Messrs. Carter, MacDermott and Norman, and Miss Walker and Mrs. King. Miss Carlton carried her horse with her usual aplomb."

Monsieur Amblard, the Secretary-General of the French Union of Ex-Service Blinded, accompanied by his wife, paid a visit to Ovingdean on February 7th, and was impressed by the provisions that St. Dunstan's makes for our war-blinded.

"Brackley House," which since August has been the Officers' House under the able management of Miss Wilchin, will from now onwards receive the wives and escorts of trainees who come to Ovingdean for a night or two and have to be accommodated.

We have said *au revoir* to another course of nine physiotherapy students who now pass to the N.I.B. School in London.

An Australian Old War St. Dunstaner, L. E. Hoult, who is on a long visit to England with his wife, has come into Ovingdean for a short training before returning to Australia.

Test Results

December—January

Preliminary.—J. Gannon, P. Wood, A. Cooke, J. Bailey, W. Smith, W. Chitty, T. Mackay.

Advanced.—W. Burns, H. Davis, R. Turner, E. Rowe, Miss S. Connor, J. Waddell (West House), J. Orrell (West House), W. Burnett (West House), D. Watkins, C. McIntosh (West House).

Typing.—Z. Ksiasek, B. Dobry, P. Parslow, W. Wrigley, D. Taylor, R. Scrimgour, G. Hewett, R. Cole, T. Horne, E. Walker, D. Grimes.

Writing.—R. Owen, H. Davis, A. H. Brown, A. Hold, D. Watkins, R. Turner, R. Herbert, E. Rowe, W. Freeman, R. Craddock, R. Pope, S. Warner.

Braille Review

We must apologise to our readers for the non-arrival of the January REVIEW in braille and the possible hold-up in the despatch of the February issue. Unfortunately, the supply of zinc, ordered by the braille printers at Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh, has not yet come to hand and their stock is completely exhausted. Both REVIEWS will be dispatched immediately it is possible for them to be set up.

Births

DALEY.—On January 24th, to the wife of J. Daley, of Liverpool, a daughter, Hester Mary.

FROST.—On January 5th, to the wife of H. Frost, of Liverpool, a son, Arthur John.

GOLDING.—On January 13th, to the wife of M. Golding, of Kentish Town, a daughter, Shirley.

INCE.—On January 29th, to the wife of J. Ince, of Leicester, a son, John Robert.

JETSON.—To the wife of Stoker Jetson, of Australia, now in this country for hospital treatment, a son.

MCCARTNEY.—We hear with deep regret that a baby born to Mr. and Mrs. H. McCartney, of Belfast, was still-born.

TODD.—On January 9th, to the wife of P. Todd, of Shrewsbury, a son, Robert Edward.

WHYTE.—To the wife of F. Whyte, of Cleland, Lanarkshire (trainee), on January 8th, a daughter—Julia.

My Bird Song Symphony

The red sun rises o'er the Hill
There's a stirring in the rippling rill,
A rustle from the young brier bush
A limpid note from throat of thrush;
Midst the rustling of the leaves
From the bush, from the eaves
I hear the sparrows pert chirrup
Wake up my feathered friends, wake up;
Then from the hedgerow and the tree
I hear my bird song symphony.

They sing so sweet throughout the day
The woodpecker beats the time,
The skylark as it wends its way
Up to that sunnier clime;
While linnets, chaffinch with all their zest
Sing to me out their nests,
Nothing in all the world to me
So sweet as my bird symphony.

And as the evening shadows fall
The sun sinks in the west,
I hear the parent birds recall
Their young ones to the nest;
And all too soon is quiet and peace
Oh why should bird songs ever cease;
I'm sure those birds sing just for me
Their glorious bird song symphony.

As night clouds gather in the sky
From the tree I hear a lullaby,
Music not by Brahms or Liszt
The blackbird is the soloist,
He sings that lullaby to me
And ends my bird song symphony.

GEN.

Sir Arnold Lawson

St. Dunstaners will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Sir Arnold Lawson which occurred on January 19th. Sir Arnold was 79.

During the first world war, Mr. Lawson, as he then was, was Sir Arthur Pearson's principal ophthalmic adviser. He became senior ophthalmic surgeon at St. Dunstan's and he remained chairman of its Ophthalmic Advisory Committee until his death.

Sir Arnold Lawson was a very warm-hearted man as well as an eminent surgeon and St. Dunstan's benefited greatly by his long period of service and wise advice. He had the gift of conveying comfort and encouragement to his patients even when he could not give them the hope that they sought and when it was better for the patient's recovery to know the facts, Sir Arnold told them—and was rewarded with their utmost confidence. Until a few weeks before his death, he was still seeing some of his old St. Dunstaner patients from the First War. They, and hundreds of blinded soldiers all over the world, will mourn his passing and feel that they have lost a real friend.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser and Mr. Askew attended the funeral service which was held at All Saints', Margaret Street, London, W.1, on January 23rd.

Mr. Edwin Fisher

St. Dunstan's has suffered a further grievous loss in the death of Mr. Edwin Fisher, who became Honorary Treasurer of St. Dunstan's in September, 1939.

As Chairman of Barclay's Bank, Mr. Fisher brought a vast knowledge of finance to St. Dunstan's affairs and his wise advice on investment policy and financial matters generally was of the utmost value to the Council. He was a man who always wanted to know how a financial scheme would effect the individual. By his death, St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's lose an honorary officer who brought great prestige as well as practical help to our own organisation during the critical war years.

Lady Fraser represented the Chairman, and Mr. W. G. Askew, the Council, at the funeral which took place in Sussex, and Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Sir Neville Pearson represented St. Dunstan's at a Memorial Service which was held in the City of London.

“ In Memory ”

Driver George Lilley, *1st West Yorks. Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of G. Lilley, of Acocks Green, Birmingham.

Lilley was an old soldier who served with his regiment from 1898 until December, 1914, when he was wounded in France; as a result he lost his sight and his health was permanently affected. He was trained as a poultry farmer, but he could not continue and for many years he was only able to do light basket-making as a hobby.

He passed away in hospital on December 9th. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Driver William Spencer, *Royal Army Service Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of “ Billy ” Spencer, which occurred at West House, Brighton, on December 14th.

Billy was a great favourite and a true St. Dunstan’s “ character.” He served in the Army from October 1914, until his discharge in April, 1919, and when he came to us shortly afterwards, he was a very sick man and was never able to undertake serious training.

It was necessary for him to have various periods at the Home and when his wife died in 1936, he was admitted as a permanent Annexe case. He was ill for a very long time before his death.

Many friends from West House attended with Matron at the funeral at Brighton Cemetery, where he was buried among his St. Dunstaners comrades.

C.Q.M.S. Cyril Reginald Houghton, *7th King’s Liverpool Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of C. R. Houghton, of Sheffield.

During his service from January, 1915, until February, 1919, he was very badly gassed, but he did not come under St. Dunstan’s care until 1938. He was then in very bad health and he was forced to give up his work, which was of an administrative nature, some time before his death. He was 53.

Cremation took place in Sheffield City Road Crematorium, where the mourners included representatives of Sheffield Social Welfare Department.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Houghton and her son, Brian.

Private Samuel Shawl, *65th Canadian Expeditionary Force*

With deep regret we record the death of S. Shawl, of Rayleigh, Essex. He was eighty years of age.

At an early age he had gone to Canada and when the 1914-1918 war broke out, he left the Canadian Mounted Police to enlist with the Canadian Army. In 1916 he was blinded at Ypres and he came to St. Dunstan’s soon afterwards. For some time he kept poultry, but his health has never been good. He passed away on January 20th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife in her loss.

Private Harry Thomas Mummery, *1st Northumberland Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of H. T. Mummery, of Saffron Walden, on January 20th.

He received his injuries in Malta and he came to St. Dunstan’s in September, 1919, where he was trained in mat-making and netting. His wife died in 1942. Her loss was a great shock to him and his health had never really recovered.

He leaves a grown up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Rifleman Sidney Charles Mackey, *Queen’s Westminster Rifles*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. C. Mackey, of East Dulwich, one of our best known physiotherapists. He died on January 13th, after a long illness.

Wounded at Neuville, he came to St. Dunstan’s in February, 1917, and was trained as a masseur. A fine sportsman before he lost his sight, he was an enthusiastic supporter of Surrey Cricket Club and Charlton Football Club and he numbered among his friends and clientele many well-known cricketers and football players. He was masseur to Dulwich Football Club for many years. He was also a prominent Freemason.

The cremation at Streatham Park Crematorium was attended by hundreds of friends, including Leslie Todd, the cricketer, and representatives of a number of Lodges and Clubs. Mr. Mace represented St. Dunstan’s.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and son, who has recently been demobilised from his father’s old regiment, the Queen’s Westminster Rifles.

Sapper Frederick George Bishop, *1st Field Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of one of our trainees, F. G. Bishop, of New Southgate.

He was severely wounded in Italy in 1945, and he came to St. Dunstan’s in March, 1946. He was, however, only able to undertake light training.

He passed away in hospital, leaving parents and brothers, to whom our deepest sympathy is extended.

Deaths

We extend our deep sympathy this month to the following :

HORSLEY.—To R. W. Horsley, of Brighton, whose wife passed peacefully away on January 7th.

NICOL.—To D. Nicol, of Edinburgh,

whose wife passed away, after a very long illness, on February 4th.

★ ★ ★

“ Bob ” Horsley writes :—“ Many thanks to my comrades of St. Dunstan’s, and their wives, and all my friends at Blackpool, West House, Ovingdean and Headquarters for their kind help and sympathy. God bless you all ! ”

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

PAID
MARCH 41
BRIGHTON

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 337—VOLUME XXX [NEW SERIES]

MARCH, 1947

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Welcome!—Australia and New Zealand

BEFORE the war broke out our plan, which we had worked out in some detail, included invitations to the Governments of the Dominions to make use of St. Dunstan's in Britain for the training of any of their soldiers, sailors and airmen whom they found it convenient to send to us for short or long periods. We offered to undertake this training free of all cost to Dominion Governments or to the men concerned.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming a substantial number of Canadians for varying periods, all the South Africans for full training, two Australians for brief visits, and one Australian and one New Zealander for full training. Those from the Commonwealth have also included three members of the Eire Army. From the Empire we have welcomed individuals from India, Malaya, Sudan, and Sarawak.

The greater part of the Australian Armed Forces were fighting in the Pacific, and thus returned direct to their homeland from the scene of operations, and their Government did not think it wise to send blinded men half-way round the world in time of war solely for training at St. Dunstan's—a policy with which, at the time, we fully agreed.

I now learn that there are 65 or 70 young men of the Australian Armed Forces who have been blinded in the recent war, and I have written to the Australian Government renewing our invitation. The situation in New Zealand is somewhat similar, and I have repeated our invitation to the New Zealand Government also.

Both these countries have taken steps to rehabilitate their blinded men, and St. Dunstan's, New Zealand, is, I hear, an admirable establishment. In Australia, every effort has been made to provide training where this has been possible, but geographical and other difficulties have made the setting up of a training centre after the St. Dunstan's pattern impracticable. A number of Australians have been individually trained in hospital or in civilian institutions, or by firms who have given them employment.

I do not claim that our method here in the Old Country is better than in any of the Dominions, but merely that it is different; mainly because of our very large numbers. I have explained to the Australian and New Zealand Governments that during 1947 our establishment at Ovingdean will be in full swing, with a very great variety of re-education, training, entertainment, and so on, and have expressed the keen desire, which I know will be shared by St. Dunstaners at home, to welcome their colleagues from the Dominions. Our blind world is so small that it seems a pity for any young blinded person not to see and share in the full activities of St. Dunstan's before he settles down for a lifetime of blindness.

PAID
26 MCH
BRIGHTON

I am taking steps to enrol all Australians and New Zealanders, who are willing and eligible, as St. Dunstaners, whether they come to us for training or not, but my earnest hope is that we shall see a good many of them here this year. Apart from the benefit which I believe they will gain as blind men, they will, I feel sure, bring us their own contribution of vigour and independence, which will be of value to us.

Older St. Dunstaners will certainly agree with me that the presence in our midst of large numbers of Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians and South Africans during and after the first war was a source of great strength, and no little liveliness, to the St. Dunstan's which we remember.

As I write these Notes the news breaks that Australia has made a gift of twenty-five million pounds, and New Zealand a gift of ten million pounds, to the Mother Country as a contribution to the Pacific War. Here, indeed, are generous gifts for which all in Britain will say "thank you."

Clear Listening

I often hear blind friends of mine listening to the wireless or a talking book with the volume fairly loud and the tone control fairly low. Tastes differ, and each must find what suits himself, but may I suggest an experiment?

Turn the tone up a bit and reduce the volume, and I think you will find that it is much more pleasant and far less tiring. The explanation is that intelligibility, or clearness of speech, is dependent to a large extent on the consonant sounds, and these are carried by the higher frequencies, and are masked by booming bass. Another tip is to sit near the loudspeaker, say about a yard away and as nearly as possible facing it, for these higher frequencies travel out from the loudspeaker in straight lines. Imagine the sound coming out like a beam of light from a motor head-lamp. If you sit in the beam you hear much more clearly.

Talking to the Deaf

Our family of St. Dunstan's includes a number of doubly handicapped men. There are, for example, those who have lost hands as well as sight, those who are bedridden and those who are deaf as well as blind. Our organisation, by its policy and our staff in their daily actions, do everything possible to give special help to these men, and I know also that St. Dunstaners themselves go out of their way to be of practical assistance whenever possible.

I write this note to call attention to a particular direction in which I think we might all of us do a little more, namely, by learning the deaf and dumb language so that when we meet one of our fellows who has this double handicap, we can talk to him in his own special language.

It is not enough to say "good afternoon," find him a chair or get him a cup of tea. What he wants is a jolly good conversation, and this can only be achieved if a large number of people amongst whom he moves can talk the deaf and dumb language on his hands fluently. I confess with some personal shame that for many years I could not do this myself, but I have recently learned to do it a little, and I am getting better at it.

It has occurred to me that a great many St. Dunstaners are good braillists, and no doubt some of our blind and deaf colleagues are good at braille also, and I have asked our Research Committee to consider whether a machine could not be made for use at West House, Blackpool, and Ovingdean, which would enable an ordinary St. Dunstaner to talk in braille to a blind and deaf St. Dunstaner. Picture these two sitting one at each side of a table. The ordinary St. Dunstaner has the keys of a braille machine in front of him. As he writes the dots appear on a piece of paper on the other side of the table where the blind and deaf man is sitting. With a little practice, I think a fluent conversation could be carried on, the ordinary St. Dunstaner using braille, the deaf St. Dunstaner replying verbally.

If this could be perfected, we might make it possible for a large number of St. Dunstaners to talk fluently to our few blind and deaf colleagues. Let us remember, however, that no machine really takes the place of an intimate, friendly talk on the hands.

IAN FRASER.

St. Dunstaner Honoured by Americans

John Taylor, of Bristol, was, on February 18th, decorated with the Silver Star for gallantry in the field, which is the highest award the United States can give to a British serviceman. The presentation was made at the American Ambassador's private house by Major General C. L. Bissell, Military Attache to the U.S. Embassy.

John won the award for his bravery while serving in Germany under the American Command. During an engagement, though severely and painfully wounded, he saved his tank and its crew when it was hit and set on fire.

On the morning of the day he was decorated, the Chairman welcomed him at Headquarters and drank a toast to his success. In the evening a number of St. Dunstan's friends, including Matron Lang, Gwen Obern, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Mackay, entertained him at the Cumberland Hotel.

Holiday Camps

H.M.S. *Daedalus* has written to say they enjoy St. Dunstaners' visits. Will they come again?

They provisionally offer us two periods, each of one week, twenty to twenty-five beds each time.

Saturday, July 5th to 12th.

Friday, Aug. 29th to Sept. 5th (Friday).

The second week is specially arranged in the hope that some St. Dunstan's trainees will be able to come. It looks like having to draw for beds. The best hope of avoiding this is to know numbers as soon as possible. I suggest the August week should be mostly for 1939-45 St. Dunstaners.

The Camp fee will be announced next month. It will not exceed £1. There will be the usual help with fares.

Please write to me as soon as you can: Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Titchfield, Fareham, Hants.

Braille Radio Times

Mr. A. Mackay, Welfare Superintendent, thanks all those St. Dunstaners who wrote to him making suggestions with regard to the "Braille Radio Times." He has been in touch with the N.I.B., its publishers, and has put forward your suggestions—in fact, some of them have already been incorporated and others are receiving serious consideration.

Broadcasting

G. Brereton, of Derby, is broadcasting on the North Regional programme, 449.1 metres, on April 3rd, in "Stay at Home," and on the 4th with Eddie McGarry's Band.

Have You Made Your Will?

Once again St. Dunstaners are reminded of the advisability of making their will. So many cases come to our notice where, through the oversight of a St. Dunstaner in not making his will, considerable delay occurs in dealing with the estate, with the result that hardship is caused to the widow and other members of the family.

If you have any money or property, however small, you should make a will. It is so much easier for those who are left.

A common mistake is for a St. Dunstaner to think that his widow will take everything belonging to him if he does not make a will. This is not so in all cases, as if the estate is over £1,000 even distant relatives may be entitled to a share.

Why not have your will prepared now? Mr. Rice, of Headquarters, will give you advice and draw a simple will for you without cost.

St. Dunstan's can act as Trustees if you so wish, and will be pleased to do so, again without any charge to you or to your family.

Placements

J. Dickey, of Liverpool, with the I.C.I. Alkali, Ltd., Runcorn, cleaning and dismantling machinery; F. Baugh, Long Eaton, as an upholsterer with Everest Upholstery, Ltd.; W. Atherton, Salford, as an upholsterer, with Messrs. Norman Lister & Co., Manchester.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," March, 1917—

Captain F. Russell Roberts has accepted the appointment of Adjutant to St. Dunstan's, and took up his duties last week.

★ ★ ★

The hard frost and the skating that accompanied it were much enjoyed by St. Dunstan's, both officers and men indulging in sports on the ice. The Canadians naturally felt at home; but, oddly enough, the Australians took to it quite naturally and appeared thoroughly to enjoy it. Early morning boating will begin in March, and we shall expect soon to hear of fresh talent which will enable us to maintain the reputation of St. Dunstan's on the Thames.

Ovingdean Notes

The great "switch off" which has affected the Training Centre for three weeks, has held up training in that the machinery in the Workshops came to a standstill, and the Industrial Trainees had to indulge in some form of handicraft to occupy their time. Happily the situation is now improving. It was fortunate that we had a stand-by diesel engine, which was retained after the A.R.P. Room had been cleared. This engine supplied essential electric services during the cuts.

Among our new trainee arrivals is a Sudanese, Ahmed Abdullah el Eissa, who is blind and handless, and has come into training with his brother as his attendant. He is the first Sudanese to become a St. Dunstaner and in warmly welcoming him we could also welcome some of the sun of his country!

The Freemasons of Brighton, Hove and District gave a dinner and dance at the Royal Pavilion for all trainees who were able to attend on Tuesday, February 11th, partners being invited to the dinner and concert. It was a lavish evening's entertainment, with an excellent concert—Max Miller as surprise Guest Artist producing great amusement and hilarity.

Another entertaining evening was a dance organised by the British Legion, Shirley Street, for thirty trainees and partners on Thursday, February 13th. These dances have always been much enjoyed by all trainees for the friendly atmosphere created by these kind people.

Yorkshire received the "limelight" on Friday, February 14th, when ten Yorkshiremen were invited to the Brighton, Hove and District Yorkshire Association Dinner and Dance, indeed enjoyed by all present.

Thursday, February 20th, was the "Gala" night for Ovingdean "Stag Party," when twenty men were invited from the N.F.S. College, Saltdean, to take part in a very pleasant evening, with competitions in darts, dominoes, etc. Entertainment was provided by F. White (monologues), T. Venn (banjo), Tug Wilson (piano accordion), B. Mather (songs), plus community singing, which proved very popular.

Thirty trainees and partners attended an excellent dance at Langford's Hotel, Hove, on Thursday, February 27th, given by Mr.

Doswell (manager). An extremely good evening with delightful eats and refreshments—everything, in fact, "pre-war."

This month's play reading was "Call It A Day," by Dodie Smith. The cast included our "star" reader, Miss Berry, Mr. Anderson, Miss Mortimer, Mr. MacDermot, Miss Arning (in a riotous part), and Miss Carlton (producer) herself. It was received by a very appreciative audience.

A series of lectures which are given by the Central Office of Information at Ovingdean, every Thursday, are greatly enjoyed by a good percentage of trainees. Subjects such as "Plastics in the Future," "Town and Country Planning," "United Nations," etc., plus interesting debates on the Dominions by officials of these countries, supply us with much food for thought.

Sunday Collections

As a result of the collections taken in the Ovingdean Chapel during the last two terms, £4 17s. 6d. has been sent to each of the following societies, making a total of £19 10s.: Pearson's Fresh Air Fund; National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League; R.A.F. Benevolent Fund; King George's Fund for Sailors.

Test Results

Ovingdean

Typing.—C. Wood, A. Snook, E. Anderson, D. Giffard, C. Brennan, G. Yakins, S. Jones.

Preliminary.—W. Miller, C. Campkin.

Advanced.—L. Hoult (Australian), R. Owen.

Avenue Road

Typing.—Frank Boldero, J. James, Stanilas Sosabowski.

Advanced Reading.—S. Sosabowski.

Cat Gives Warning of Fire

When fire broke out in the home of J. Carney, of Dunstable, during the night, Mrs. Carney was awakened by the cries of their cat and was able to put the fire out, although not before some damage had been done. The fire was caused by clothes left to dry before the fire.

★ ★ ★

The Editor sincerely thanks all those who were good enough to respond to the appeal for December REVIEWS.

Blind J.P.s

Sir Ian Fraser and Squadron Leader W. T. Curtis-Willson, J.P., gave evidence to a Royal Commission on Justices of the Peace in London, on February 28th. Lord Justice du Parcq presided.

Sir Ian said he recalled about a dozen cases of men who were blind who were Justices of the Peace. The qualifications required for a successful J.P. include intelligence to understand facts and evidence, to assess their value and draw conclusions from them, and the ability to get the facts into the mind. A blind man, he said, was not handicapped in judging facts. Blind people could hold information in their minds for a long time. He admitted that they might be handicapped in looking at plans, but pointed out that a blind magistrate would not be sitting on a Bench by himself. "Members of the Bench, for instance," he said, "may look at a witness and say, 'She is a good-looking girl and looks straight enough,' and be influenced by those facts, but the blind man might be able to say, 'She is a liar.'"

Sir Ian submitted that there may be from time to time blind men who by reason of their training and ability might make suitable Justices in spite of their handicap, and it was not in the nation's interest, or in their own, to exclude them solely on account of blindness. He recommended that such persons should not be excluded from appointment to the Bench solely on that account, though the handicap of blindness should be taken into account with all other handicaps, physical or mental, in determining fitness for the post. He urged the Royal Commission to consider this recommendation sympathetically, having regard to the fact that it is the policy of this country, supported by all parties, to encourage the employment of disabled persons in all occupations for which they are fitted. In reply to a question from a member of the Commission as to whether a person being judged by a blind magistrate might think he was not getting justice, Sir Ian said, amid laughter, that he might prefer to be judged by a wise blind man than by Colonel Blimp.

Squadron Leader Curtis-Willson, who has had nine years' experience on the Bench, and who has been totally blind for the past five years, associated himself entirely with everything Sir Ian had said in

his report and replies, and he revealed how he was to have been one of four magistrates chosen to administer justice in Brighton had the Nazis invaded this country during the war. In his experience, he said, the number of cases in which it is essential for the magistrate to see some document which forms part of the evidence are very few. He begged the Royal Commission not to make it impossible for blind people to be appointed as magistrates. He asked that they should be given the opportunity to follow the experience and example of men like Milton, Sir Arthur Pearson, and Sir Ian Fraser, all of whom had risen above their handicap to give public service to their fellows.

Mr. Orbell, Chairman of the Brighton Licensing Bench, paid a tribute to Squadron Leader Curtis-Willson's ability as a J.P. He and his colleagues, he said, had been amazed at the marvellous facility with which he had absorbed the details of Acts of Parliament and extracts necessary for his duties as a magistrate.

At the conclusion of the evidence, Lord du Parcq and the members of the Commission thanked the witnesses for their valuable evidence and warmly shook hands with both.

Cup Final Tickets

We have the promise of a very small number of Cup Final tickets (to be played at Wembley on April 26th). There will be a ballot for them and those St. Dunstaners wishing to take part in the draw should send in their names to Corporal Major Dawkins, at Headquarters, as soon as possible and not later than April 14th.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversaries: Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Boase, of Bradford, September 11th; Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Pratt, Merton Park, February 7th; Mr. and Mrs. F. Ralph, Saltdean, February 12th.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Meighen, whose silver wedding was announced last month, live at Dollis Hill, of course, and not Dulwich Hill, as printed.

Grandfathers

J. H. Warren, Macclesfield, and A. Massey, of Reading.

Brighton Notes

We shall not talk of the fuel crisis at West House, but of more cheerful things. That means, too, that we must not mention the weather, for although we have been much more fortunate in the South than the rest of the country, it is still not exactly a happy topic for discussion. Enough to say that we hope for that promised thaw early in March!

In spite of all these things, or perhaps because of them, we have continued to have plenty of entertainment provided by our friends in Brighton and visitors to West House have been many.

Our first concert of the month was arranged by Mrs. Mercer, and was enjoyed by all of us. This was followed on the 6th February by another show, this time arranged by Mr. Jack Sullivan. This was on the occasion of an "At Home," held to welcome Mr. L. Fawcett as our Commandant.

St. Dunstaners and guests were entertained until midnight, and again the programme was relayed to the Sick Ward. Clifford Rawson, S. W. Wyndham, Fred Mason, Mary Orme, Tommy Venn, Fred White and Jack Sullivan were all on the "bill." Later in the evening Ted Ray and Jane Corder arrived, after the end of the show at the Brighton Hippodrome, and Joan Wood, The Gandy Brothers and the Musical Elliotts, who had been appearing at the Grand Theatre rounded off the programme. These artists were given a special welcome for so kindly coming along at such a late hour.

Our good friends of the Yacht Club sent along some beer for the men, and Mr. Joe Gluckstein very kindly presented ten cigarettes to each man.

On this occasion we were very pleased to welcome Matron Pain and several members of her staff, together with a party of twenty men from Ovingdean.

On February 11th we were invited to dinner, concert and dance, held at the Royal Pavilion, by the local Masonic Lodge and, as usual, we had a most enjoyable evening.

A St. Valentine's Dance, at which we organised a fancy hat contest, was held at West House on the 14th. The prize winners were: Most Original, Bobby Collins (made by Mr. King); Coal Scuttle, complete with shovel, labelled "What! no coal, Mr. Shinwell?" (cost of hat 7½d.);

Prettiest Hat, Douglas Whitehead (made by "Prim"); Spring Hat of hand-made rose-buds.

The lounge was gaily decorated for the dance by the Lounge Staff, who also made many of the fancy hats.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,

The braille issue of the REVIEW, we are told, will be late, due to the shortage of materials. Also I learn a new weekly paper is to be issued when materials are more plentiful. If materials are so scarce, why do "Hora Jocunda" and "Hampstead" contain the same stories as each other so frequently, and often are published again in "Progress"? Also, why are stories published over and over again? Not only do we need more in variety but this is a deliberate waste of paper, time and money.

Yours sincerely,

GEO. FALLOWFIELD.

Southwick.

The Blinded German

Although the correspondence on this subject is now closed, we feel that the following letter, which has come to us from Neil W. Campbell, of New Zealand, is of special interest and we therefore print it:

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,

I would like to put a direct question to the blinded German. It is: As a German, do you feel guilty for the frightfulness and indescribably horrible suffering and death imposed on humanity in peace and war?

He seems to think he can have relationships as though his nation had not foully violated everything against God, when they knew what they were doing. A recent broadcast from the B.B.C. asserted this of young German religious students.

Yours sincerely,

NEIL WM. CAMPBELL.

Wellington, New Zealand.

Another German Writes

Through an English friend, we have received a request from another young blinded German who would like to correspond with an English St. Dunstaner. He is Georg Ochs and he was blinded in Russia. He writes:

"After leaving school I had entered a commercial training school, but now I could no longer use the trade I had learned. After a thorough training in an institute for the blind, I decided to study. I first took my beloved wife from mid-Germany, in the district of Halle. Now I am in my second term of the study of Law.

"Several of my comrades—there are five of us at the University who were blinded by the war—have gone into contact with blinded American soldiers, in order to learn about blindness in America. I would like to try the same with an Englishman, to compare notes and perhaps to start a friendly correspondence. I can write English and also understand it, although my knowledge is still limited. The Englishman could, however, easily write to me in English with a typewriter, or in braille.

"I would be very grateful if you could fulfil my wish and give me the address of a blind soldier—who is also, if possible, a student."

The Editor will be glad to give the address of this young German to any St. Dunstaner who would like to correspond with him.

From Jimmy Ellis

(who receives a prize of One Guinea for it)

Without referring to our cards, how many of us know our identity number? Not many. I was looking up mine the other day and was amused to find the index letters preceding the number are the following: O. I. C. Rather funny for a St. Dunstaner, don't you think?

Skylark

*Oh, winged monarch of the sky,
Thy note so clear and pure as gold,
On thy light wing far born on high
Thou sheddest dew from thy wing's fold.
Such song no symphony excels,
As thou duest herald forth the dawn,
Thy praise sincere and clear the bells,
With bird-like psalm doth hail the morn.
Now lost in that expanse of blue
Caressed, and draped by haze and cloud,
Thy harmony so faint yet true
Descends beneath thy silver shroud.
The world below thy lofty heights
Awakes to greet the birth of morn,
To rise, and gaze at heaven's light,
To praise thee for the song of dawn.*

J. GANNON, Ovingdean.

This also receives a prize of one guinea.

From the Chairman's Post-bag

DEAR SIR IAN FRASER,

I hardly know how to begin my letter to you, but I do wish to express my very, very grateful thanks for all your kindness to me. Yesterday I received all my baskets and material. I feel so happy now I can start to work. Sir, my parents and my wife wish me to say how very thankful to you they are, and I, too, know it's you I have to be thankful, for re-establishing me in life.

I hope soon to move in a newly-built flat, and there I have a large room for my workshop. My radio is fine and I spend many happy hours of pleasure and listening to the B.B.C.

I hope you will publish my little note, as I can never thank St. Dunstan's enough, also Matron Pain, Commandant, Mr. Burman and staff.

With gratitude and kind remembrances,

Your sincerely and thankful

St. Dunstaner,

FRANS OOSTHOEK.

Rotterdam, Holland.

DEAR SIR IAN,

This is just to let you know that at the monthly meeting of the Church Stretton U.D.C., held last Monday, February 3rd, I presented, on behalf of yourself and the Council of St. Dunstan's, the Plaque which commemorates St. Dunstan's stay in Church Stretton from 1940-1946.

I was asked by the Chairman, Dr. McClintock, to express to you the thanks of the Council, and to say that the Plaque will be hung in the entrance hall of the Silvester Horne Institute.

I think you already know the wording of the Plaque, but in case you should wish to be reminded, it was as follows:—

"This is to place on record the thanks of St. Dunstan's, whose men and women, blinded in war service, enjoyed the hospitality of Church Stretton during their training here between the years of 1940-1946."

The plaque was very nicely executed by a firm in Shrewsbury who specialise in such work, and provides, I think, a fitting and lasting memorial of St. Dunstan's sojourn in these parts.

Yours sincerely,

C. P. O. BARTLETT.

Church Stretton.

“ In Memory ”

Private William Smith, Bedfordshire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of W. Smith, of Brighton, at the age of eighty-five.

He enlisted soon after the 1914-1918 war broke out, although he had already served for three periods in the Army. His sight failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1926, but he was never robust and he was not able to train.

He had lived for many years with his sister, and he died at her home on February 23rd. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his sister in her loss.

The parents of “ Steve ” Bishop, of New Southgate, whose death was reported last month, send a special word of thanks to the many friends he gained while under the care of St. Dunstan's.

Mrs. McKenna, of Denton, Manchester, whose husband died recently, tells us that although he enlisted in August, 1914, he had previously joined the Army in May, 1900, and had served in the South African War, being discharged unfit. We are glad to make this correction in our records.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

The past few weeks have been a very busy time for the Bridge Club. Our Annual Meeting was held at Headquarters on Saturday, February 22nd. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Sir Ian Fraser, Mr. A. Mackay took the chair. All the reports were most satisfactory, the balance in hand being about £25. Our thanks are due to the retiring Treasurer, P. Nuyens, for his good work. N. Downs and R. Coles were re-elected as Secretary and Captain respectively, and F. Rhodes was appointed as Treasurer.

A donation of £5 13s. 9d. was made to the Deaf-Blind Watch Fund, and this sum will enable the officials to purchase a watch.

Various matters were discussed at length and the many points raised concerning the season's programme were left to the Committee.

A new contact was made in February, when a team opposed the Broomfield Bridge Circle. A pleasant afternoon was spent, the visitors being the winners. A team also took part in the open Bridge Club Competition, organised by the *Sunday Graphic*, and put up a creditable performance. We also visited Cadby Hall during the month and spent a most enjoyable time, but this time we were the winners. Then, on the first Saturday in March, H. Armstrong, who is a great friend to the Club, invited the members of the Bridge Club to a Bridge Drive at the Hampstead Town Hall. A good number of the members availed themselves of the opportunity, and the many kindly people at the Town Hall worked splendidly to give us all a very good time. It was indeed gratifying, for even the undersigned was successful in

winning the top lowest. A good year lies ahead of the Club, and I do hope that all members will avail themselves of the opportunities afforded to them by the pleasant Saturday afternoons. R. P. COLES.

Birth

KOEHORST.—On February 18th, to the wife of J. Koehorst, London, N.W.6, a daughter.

Marriages

ATHERTON.—On February 15th, W. Atherton, of Cronton, near Widnes, to Miss Mary Garratt, of Church Stretton.

COLLINS.—On January 14th, W. H. Collins, of Sompting, to Miss Margaret Hollingworth, of Blackpool.

MOORE.—On November 2nd, Alan D. Moore, of Fareham, to Miss Ann Lennon.

Deaths

FOXON.—To W. H. Foxon, of Woodgate, Leicester, whose mother, with whom he lived, passed away on February 20th.

KILSBY.—To G. Kilsby, of Hendon Way, whose wife passed away on February 18th, after a short illness. Mr. and Mrs. Kilsby had celebrated their silver wedding only three weeks previously.

WALTON.—To T. W. Walton, of Goring-on-Sea, who lost his wife on February 9th. They, too, had celebrated their silver wedding only a fortnight before.

Killed on Active Service

We have heard with deep regret that Stanley Boothman, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Boothman, of Salford, and late of the Merchant Navy, was killed in Palestine on August 31st. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his parents.

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 338—VOLUME XXX [NEW SERIES]

APRIL, 1947

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ST. DUNSTAN'S has been an active going concern for thirty-two years. It was founded in the early years of the First World War and many of the staff joined us then and in the year or two following. The passage of time and the advent of the Second War have naturally brought us to a period when staff changes were to be expected, and I mentioned some of them in my January Notes.

Two important changes are reported on another page, namely, the transfer of Mr. Harry Bennett from his war-time job back to the charge of what we used to call "Raglan Street" (which was the supply and sales service to nearly one thousand of the First World War men), and the appointment of Mr. Pat Owens to a new post covering what might broadly be termed technical after-care.

Harry Bennett joined the staff of St. Dunstan's in February, 1923, as a salesman, quickly rose to be Sales Manager, then found himself in charge of all our activities at Raglan Street, and when the Second War came, took over many additional duties, including the very difficult work of placing men in appointments and industrial posts. He brought great energy and initiative to surveying British industry on a national scale, and was responsible not only for laying the lines of this important work, but also for all our placements up to the present time. Speaking about the employment of disabled persons generally in the House of Commons the other day, I was able to say that 351 St. Dunstaners of the Second War had been trained and settled, and that of these about 10 per cent. were unable, through various causes, such as ill-health, exceptional wounds, etc., to undertake active work, a further 10 per cent. were in home industries, while 80 per cent. had gone to the professions, commerce, industry, poultry-farming, or other special jobs. A magnificent record not surpassed by any other group of severely disabled men. Harry Bennett and his staff were responsible for the majority of these settlements.

His relinquishment of this job on account of seniority and also because we want him, with his great experience, to rebuild our home industry activities, is a good opportunity to express our gratitude to him for all the splendid and thoughtful services he has rendered St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners.

Pat Owens, who takes over Placement and the other duties defined on another page, is a St. Dunstaner who has recovered a little bit of vision, but who also has a leg missing. He has been appointed not only because he is an extremely capable man, but also because, being a St. Dunstaner himself, and having the additional handicap of an artificial limb, he should understand our men's problems better than others. This appointment follows a practice, which I have observed over a long period of time, of trying to bring into our

organisation a small number of suitable St. Dunstaners in administrative, executive and other positions, where their ability warrants it and their experience will be a help. Pat Owens is 35 years of age, and in his earlier years was a regular Royal Engineer, rising from the ranks to the post of Regimental Sergeant Major. When the Second War came he was commissioned in the Royal Engineers, and he thus has a broad experience of every kind of Army life as well as a technical background. He will go to some of the reunions later in the year to make personal contacts with St. Dunstaners.

IAN FRASER.

Mrs. Attlee Visits St. Dunstan's

On March 31st Mrs. Attlee, wife of the Prime Minister, motored down to St. Dunstan's Training Centre, at Ovingdean, and, accompanied by Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, visited the trainees at work. She talked to many of the men at work on their lathes and other machines and, through Sir Ian, who tapped out the message in the manual alphabet, said to Wally Thomas, who is also deaf, "The Prime Minister wishes you good luck." After luncheon with Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Matron Pain, Mrs. Attlee was taken by the Commandant to the preliminary handicraft training section.

A Message from H.R.H. Princess Katherine of Greece

When the engagement was announced of Princess Katherine of Greece to Major R. Brandram, M.C., Miss Hester Pease wrote a letter of good wishes to Her Royal Highness expressing also the good wishes of the men of Tembani where the Princess was a valued and popular visitor.

Miss Pease has now received the following letter from Princess Katherine :

PALAIS ROYAL, ATHENS.

MY DEAR MISS PEASE,

Many thanks for your very nice letter and wishes for my engagement. It was so kind of you to have thought of me. I so often look back at those nice days at Tembani and all the "boys" and how happy you all made them. When I *do* come to England with my husband, I shall let you know, as I would so much like to see you again, and also, if possible, see some of the "boys" with you. I shall be getting married on April 21st, and am very busy seeing to a lot of things. Thanking you again so much and please give my love to the boys, whoever you see of them and tell them that I so often think of them.

Yours sincerely,

KATHERINE.

The March Floods

Relatively few St. Dunstaners were affected by the floods which covered many parts of the country in March, but among those to whom our sympathy is extended is J. Lynch, of Hornchurch, one of our shopkeepers, who lost a considerable part of his tobacco and confectionery stock when water from a blocked sewer twice flooded his premises to a depth of several inches.

Len Ellaway, of Monmouth, reported 3ft. 6in. of water downstairs, with outside helpers bringing food in boats. He said : "The piano we put up on an orange box but it was not high enough, the water just about reached the keys ; there is a lot of oil floating around on the water so I dread to think what things will be like when it goes. I do not know what my workshop is like ; all I can say is that it is still there, and I guess that a lot of the willows will be already soaked."

In York, around H. Scaife's home, the roads were flooded for miles, but our St. Dunstaner and his brother rode through it daily on their tandem on their way to work. His own house, being on a hill, was not in danger. Master Scaife, in common with all the other small boys of York, had the time of his life in this watery Paradise.

Bridal Outfits

A limited number of white and cream bridal outfits of different sizes and styles are available on loan to prospective brides of St. Dunstaners or girl St. Dunstaners about to marry. The dresses are of good quality silks and satins, and veils and headdresses are available to go with them. Veils and headdresses may be borrowed separately if required. One or two pairs of shoes are also available.

Application for the loan of a wedding outfit must be made on a form which has been prepared for the purpose, and is obtainable from Matron Pain, St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, Brighton.

St. Dunstan's Holiday Camps with the Navy

Provisional Dates:

July 5th to 12th.

August 29th to September 5th.

Camp Fee, £1. Fares over first 15s. repaid. No ration books required.

Beds are limited and there may be a draw. Please write before Saturday, May 3rd, without fail. Directly after the draw I will let everyone who has entered know their luck. Accommodation will be in the Main Barracks at Lee this year—two minutes' walk from the front and the swimming bath. The various Messes are again to provide evening entertainment. I expect we shall get a trip in an Air Sea Rescue Boat, and a visit to the aerodrome to inspect planes. Please write at once to Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Titchfield, Fareham, Hants. (Tel. Titchfield 24).

"Whereas We Two Were Blind But Became World Champions"

By the way, "we" signifies a banana eater and a yellow belly, *i.e.*, Queenslander and Lincolnshireman.

Oyez! Oyez!! Oyez!!!

I, Edward Richard Blackmore, of Brisbane, in the State of Queensland, temporarily resident in England, possessed of sound mind, no sight, and a good left forefinger and thumb, do hereby claim championship in my class upon my typewriter.

I, Geoffrey Arthur Preston, of no fixed abode, possessed of no sense, no vision, and no useful fingers, do hereby claim precedence over all men in the operation of my typewriter with one metal finger.

If any man doubts the validity of our claim to world championship, he is hereby challenged to enter upon a contest for speed and accuracy, under similar conditions, on consideration of a "pony."

Braille Test Results

Avenue Road

Preliminary—George Reed, Ted Blackmore, Stanislas Sosabowski (amended notice—last month's result was given as "Advanced.").

Writing—Stanislas Sosabowskil.

Derby Sweepstake, 1947

Once again we invite applications for tickets in the REVIEW's own Derby Sweepstake which is open only to St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees.

Tickets will again be 2s. 6d. each and applications for them can be made at once and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 23rd**. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 9-11 Park Crescent, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered.

The total amount of the money subscribed, after the cost of printing and postage has been deducted, will be distributed as follows:

- 50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.
- 20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.
- 10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.
- 20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

Handless St. Dunstaner Works as a Guide

Ted Miller, who lost his hands and his sight while serving in Holland, is now working as a guide at Warwick Castle. To enable him to acquire a knowledge of the layout of the Castle and its surroundings, a model was constructed while he was at our Training Centre on which all the buildings and special features could be distinguished by touch from the elbow. Trees were represented by pieces of sponge, lawns by cloth, the River Avon by a strip of cycle tyre rubber. Later he was given a three-months intensive course by two tutors in the history of the Castle. Lord Warwick has taken a personal interest in his case.

Honour

Congratulations to Mrs. Maureen Lees, now in training, who has received the T.A. Proficiency Medal for her services in the A.T.S.

Constant Attendance Allowance

Some little time back the Government agreed that, in very exceptional cases, they would award a special Constant Attendance Allowance at the rate of 40s. a week. This special rate was intended for cases of the most severe disablement, such as, for example, the complete loss of all sight and both hands, and affected but very few St. Dunstaners. It did, however, give us an opening to suggest to the Ministry of Pensions that an all-round adjustment should be made in the award of the Constant Attendance Allowance to blinded pensioners.

The Ministry dealt with the matter sympathetically, and I am pleased to say have agreed, as from the first pay-day in this month, to raise the Constant Attendance Allowance for total blindness from 10s. a week to 20s. a week. In addition, they have agreed to give a Constant Attendance Allowance at the rate of 10s. a week to those St. Dunstaners who are pensioned at the 100 per cent. rate and who have not more than guiding vision.

The individual cases are being dealt with by the Ministry on recommendations from St. Dunstan's, and a certain number of St. Dunstaners will have already received notification from Mr. Banks either that we have recommended an increase in their allowance from 10s., 12s. 6d. or 15s., to 20s. a week, or in cases where the Allowance was not previously in issue have recommended the grant of 10s. a week.

We have dealt with the simplest cases first and it will take us some time to complete our enquiries and deal with all the outstanding cases. Perhaps those men who have not heard from Mr. Banks will be patient and will not write to him or to me. Every case will be dealt with in time, and those who are entitled to anything extra will receive payment as from the 2nd April, 1947.

St. Dunstaners will appreciate that the full Attendance Allowance given under the Royal Warrant is still 20s. a week, and that the 40s. a week is only for very exceptional cases. As the result of this it is not possible for the Ministry to award any additional amount beyond the 20s. to those St. Dunstaners who, in addition to total blindness, have other disabilities, such as the loss of an arm or a leg, a missing finger

or two, or some degree of deafness. These St. Dunstaners will receive from the Ministry the same Allowance as is given to other St. Dunstaners whose only disability is total blindness.

It is not possible, in view of the terms of the Royal Warrant, for St. Dunstan's to obtain from the Ministry any increase for these men, and we have therefore decided that where, in addition to total blindness, the St. Dunstaner has other disabilities caused by his War Service, we will add 5s. or 10s. a week, as the case may be, to his Attendance Allowance by the issue to him of the extra amount out of our Pensions Fund.

Those St. Dunstaners who, because they are in receipt of less than the 100 per cent. Government Pension, are compensated under the Workmen's Compensation Acts or, in the case of 1914-18 men, are not receiving any Government Pension, are in most cases already receiving the Constant Attendance Allowance from St. Dunstan's. These cases will all be reconsidered in the light of the new regulations and, where appropriate, the Allowance will be increased to accord with the amount to which they would have been entitled had they been pensioned by the Government. Those St. Dunstaners who are not in receipt of any Attendance Allowance will also have their cases reviewed to see if they are now eligible for the 10s. a week rate given to men with guiding vision.

This will all take time, but here again arrears will be paid out of our Pensions Fund, with effect from April 2nd.

W. ASKEW.

St. Dunstaners Have a Go

From all parts of the country, letters of congratulation have come to St. Dunstan's and to Wilfred Pickles on the recent broadcast at the Ovingdean Home. One Scottish listener wrote to the *Glasgow Evening News*, "Thanks, St. Dunstan's Quiz Team, and Wilfred Pickles, for the opportunity of hearing these grand people," and enclosed a gift of a pound. Another listener, Mrs. Josey, of Tilehurst, also enclosing a gift, wrote: "Dear Chaps—in appreciation of—to me—the finest and happiest half-hour on the radio since the electricity cut. You chaps don't want sympathy—it's we who do. You've got something we haven't."

Ovingdean Notes

Among the visitors to Ovingdean this month we have been honoured with a visit from Mrs. Attlee, wife of the Prime Minister, and Mr. W. J. Jordan, High Commissioner for New Zealand.

We have had an interesting demonstration from four German subjects, who were brought to this country specially for demonstration purposes, and stayed a week-end at Ovingdean. The demonstration was specially staged, as it is of interest to our handless St. Dunstaners, and to a less degree to the one-handed men with amputations below the elbow. Two of the Germans have been operated upon so as to divide the two bones of the forearm into two long fingers, and they were able to demonstrate that by this means they are able to do many things which are not possible with an ordinary stump. The other two Germans had, by means of an operation, a hole placed through the muscles of the forearm, through which an ivory peg had been inserted so as to provide an attachment as a motive point, actuated by the muscles themselves. With these motive points, the subject is able to operate the thumb and finger of an artificial hand attachment. The demonstration was impressive, but it is yet early to say whether a blind amputee could regard it as an advantage, taking into consideration all the pros and cons.

On Wednesday, March 26th, Mr. George Harrison, Sporting Columnist of the *News of the World*, led a "Sports Brains Trust" at Ovingdean to entertain the Trainees. For over an hour, Mr. Harrison, Jimmy Wilde (ex-Featherweight Champion of the World), Joe Binks (ex-Mile Record holder), and Charles Barnett, who holds the Number 1 Referee's Licence of the Boxing Board Control, told of their experiences in the world of sport, answering numerous questions. The show was an immense success, and Mr. Harrison and his colleagues promised to pay a return visit soon.

On March 31st, Mr. Joe Baksi paid a visit to us, accompanied by his trainer and Mr. Bill Sinclair, the well-known local sporting promoter—to give an invigorating talk and discussion on "Boxing," which produced a large audience.

Five trainees spent an enjoyable day at the House of Commons on Friday, March 21st, listening to the debates of the day. Major Tufton Beamish, M.P. for East Sussex, was one of the speakers.

Mrs. Joseph Child, of the Cultural Relations Office, American Embassy, also visited us on March 25th, to give a talk on "America and its Post-War Problems."

A delightful evening was enjoyed by the trainees and their partners on Wednesday, March 12th, when the Grocers' Association gave a Tea and Dance at the King Alfred Hotel, Hove. The excellent band and floor were greatly appreciated, plus refreshments—obtainable throughout the evening.

A dinner and dance was given at the Savoy Cafe on Saturday, March 15th, by Mr. Cheesman—the second time that he had entertained trainees during their "off training periods," and undoubtedly enjoyed.

On Thursday, March 20th, forty trainees and their partners were invited to a dance at Sherry's, to take part in a dancing competition, specially arranged for St. Dunstan's only. The competitors danced a waltz, fox-trot, and quick-step, which were judged by Sherry's own dancing instructor. The winners of the first prize (two silver cups) were H. Foster and his wife, E. Bedford and his partner (second), H. Frost and his partner (third).

At the "Creamery," Rottingdean, on Wednesday, March 26th, thirty of the trainees and staff entertained Miss Goodall (Pensions Office) and Reg. Turner (Physiotherapy Student), who are being married on April 9th. Matron acted as Hostess and presented the cheque, which was a joint gift from the trainees and staff. Miss MacAndrew kindly provided carnations and snowdrops for everyone, greatly adding to the gaiety of the scene.

End of Term Concert

The term at Ovingdean ended with one of the finest concerts St. Dunstan's has ever produced. "Easter Carnival," presented on Thursday and Friday, March 27th and 28th, brought in some old favourites and revealed some grand new talent. The programme included guest artists, Beryl Sleigh and Ron Smith, the Brytonics, St. Dunstan's Orchestra, and its Accordion Orchestra, our novelty instrumentalists,

Eric Howarth (trumpet) and Dick Brett (trombone), with only eight weeks' music instruction, George Hewitt (saxophone) with twelve weeks, and Les Halliday (accordion). Zofia Ksiazek gave a mimed comedy contribution and a beautifully spoken extract from Clemence Dane's play, "Will Shakespeare." But the highlight of the evening was a sketch featuring the Commandant and his secretary, Marjorie Wheaton, which showed the inner workings of that sacred sanctum, the "Com.'s Office." Our Padre, the Rev. Bryant Crane, acted as compere to a riotous evening's entertainment.

Press Cuttings

From the *News of the World*, March 30th, by Sporting Correspondent, George Harrison:

"I had Joe Binks and Jimmy Wilde down at the Ovingdean Home with me during the week and we talked to those grand blokes for an hour on sport. But I figure we learned more than we taught. For example, they have the toughest relay races in the world. For straight stretches of up to 100 yards a lap. A gun starts the runner off and simultaneously a klaxon horn at the far end of the lap opens up. The boy runs, guided in a straight line by the sound of the horn. His second lap runner is on the mark—so they go on, full out every inch of the way. Some years ago, Harold Abrahams, our Olympic sprinter, took on a St. Dunstan's man in a race over 100 yards, which was Harold's distance. The conditions were that Abrahams ran blindfolded. He was beaten 15 yards, as I recall it."

From the *Northern Dispatch*, Darlington:

Joe Baksi, the American boxer, who is training at Brighton for his meeting with Bruce Woodcock, spent an afternoon with the trainees at St. Dunstan's training centre, Ovingdean. Joe visited the gym and demonstrated with the gloves and the punch ball. Then he watched the various phases of training and said, "It's a tonic to watch those boys learning their stuff; it has made me forget almost the particular job I have in hand."

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,

This is a true story.

A totally deaf-blind man was left in his flat alone. His wife had gone shopping and, as was usual, had left the key on a string in the lock. The man became aware that someone was shouting at him by the warm breath he felt at the side of his head. He put out his hand, felt what he thought was an Army coat, and said that he was deaf-blind. He took out a manual alphabet card from his pocket and held out his hand for communication. He realised that a piece of coal was put in his hand. This was the quick way the coalman was able to tell him that, in spite of such a great handicap, his material wants, at least in the way of warmth, were being provided. Rather a nice thought, I think. Don't you?

Streatham. Yours sincerely, W. T. SCOTT.

This letter receives a prize of one guinea.

Jury Service

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,

I was interested to read of the evidence given by Sir Ian and Squadron Leader Curtis-Willson before a Royal Commission on Justices of the Peace. I should like to know whether blindness precludes a person from having his name entered on the roll of jurors and being called upon to act as a jurymen.

If there have been blind J.P.'s, I take it there is nothing to prevent a blind man serving on a jury, but I would be glad if you would kindly confirm the point.

Bristol. Yours sincerely, ROBERT SLATTER.

The Editor writes: A blind person is not eligible to sit on a jury. "Whitaker's Almanack" gives a number of disqualifications, which includes "... deaf or blind persons ..." while among the exemptions are peers, members of both Houses of Parliament, and a number of other professional and official categories.

Grandfathers

R. Paterson, of Thirsk; E. Denny, of Pretoria—his son, Terence's wife, had a son on February 5th. Our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, of Nottingham, whose little grand-daughter, born on February 25th, only lived a short while.

Other News

During the past two months, the B.B.C. has broadcast talks on St. Dunstan's to Russia (twice), Arabia, and South America.

L. Johns, of Totnes, has aroused much local interest by talks on St. Dunstan's to branches of Toc H.

The *Daily Mirror* of March 22nd, had a picture of Rex Cole and his partner, Priscilla Russell, as competitors in a recent Brighton dance contest. The previous competition had been won by Alfred Dodson with Rex as the runner-up.

After giving commentaries of Leeds United home matches to Ernest Russell, an office colleague, Mr. John Fraser, is obtaining a microphone, earphones and other apparatus, so that other blind football enthusiasts can listen.

Liverpool Corporation Baths Committee is to spend £500 for a special ticket-issuing machine to be operated by G. Hewett, who was formerly deputy-superintendent at Stebble Street Baths. He is now being trained to operate such a machine.

Congratulations to J. R. Lynch, B.E.M., of Ruislip, telephonist, who celebrated his twenty-fifth year of service with Shell-Mex and B.P. on February 13th.

Thirty Years Ago

From "*St. Dunstan's Review*," April, 1917:

Monday, March 26th, was the second anniversary of the opening of St. Dunstan's. Those who were on the staff at the start—there are only five of them, apart from Sir Arthur himself—may well wonder at the changes that have taken place in those two years. There were less than twenty blinded soldiers then, and St. Dunstan's was like a half-empty palace. Now it is more like a railway station on a Bank Holiday. Let us all hope that another anniversary will see the Hostel at the end of the necessity for its usefulness!

Sir Arthur Pearson called all the men together on the afternoon of March 2nd to hear him explain the new pension scheme. There was a big gathering of old boys resident in London, and many and varied were the queries that he was called upon to satisfy. It was a useful gathering, and those who went away without understanding all about it had only themselves to blame.

"Reader's Digest"

Recipients of the *Reader's Digest* are asked by the American Printing House of New York from time to time if they wish to continue receiving this popular magazine. Will all readers make a special note that, as the result of a special arrangement, when they receive such a letter in future it should be sent to Horace Kerr, at Headquarters, who will deal with all applications. Readers should, of course, say whether they still wish to receive the *Digest*.

Placements

S. R. Jones, Cricklewood, on assembly, with Messrs. S. Smith & Sons, Ltd.; A. F. Cooke, Hereford, with Messrs. J. Burton and Sons, Ltd. (Model Bakery), Hereford, on bakery work; S. Foyle, Oxhey, as a newspaper vendor, at St. Alban's; F. Bentley, Birmingham, with Wolsley Motors, Ltd., Birmingham, on inspection.

Desert Song

Out in the desert
Only bites and blisters,
You want to come to West House
And meet the lovely Sisters.

Out in the desert
Feeling really lousy,
You want to come to West House
And meet dear Matron Ouseley.

Out in the desert
Living in the gutter,
You want to come to West House
What! Eggs, milk and butter!?"

Out in the desert
I saw some lovely legs,
Not so good as West House
With its ham and eggs!

Out in the desert
Digging hard for gold,
You want to come to West House,
The place for young and old.

Out in the desert
Working on a 'drome,
You want to come to West House,
It's really home from home.

Out in the desert,
It really is a size.
I hope when St. D's. reads my verse
I'll win a guinea prize.

WALLY THOMAS,
West House.

(And he has.—ED.)

From the Chairman's Post Bag

DEAR SIR IAN,

As a member of the Deaf-Blind Helpers League, may I thank you for the practical help and sympathy you are showing to the special difficulties confronting these men. In the wider field, embracing men and women, I have found that a large number are inclined to be older than the average St. Dunstaner. The fund for watches has been a great boon to them. I hope our fellows will continue to support it. This fund is at least one way in which we may show our desire to help.

With regard to your suggestion about apparatus, may I suggest that the better way for us to get these folk into a conversation with more than two persons is for one to act as interpreter. It must be borne in mind that the deaf-blind in any case can only use their one pair of hands, whether for reading braille or for the paw-jaw. If the interpreter will speak out what he is paw-jawing at the same time, then the other members of the party know how the conversation is going and can hear the replies of the deaf-blind. It is better to have the one person doing the interpreting. This requires a little practice. It should be the aim of as many as possible to be prepared to act as interpreters. Then the great thing will have happened, the deaf-blind will realise that he has many friends about him, a clap of the hands will bring intelligent aid. Another thing is that when any interpreter is paw-jawing, he should make it his business to see that, if he breaks contact, someone else is ready and willing to carry on the good work. Further, may I suggest that at our various establishments we have displayed in a prominent position a card of the paw-jaw, so that any sighted friends may become aware that such things are necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Streatham, S.W.16.

W. T. SCOTT.

Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow

This is the success story of one of our St. Dunstan's shop-keepers of the 1914—1918 war. With so many new war men just beginning their own shop-keeping careers, we print it as an example and encouragement to them, for it is typical of the grit and perseverance of all our 1914—1918 shop-keepers.

Starting in 1928, he opened as a tobacconist, confectioner and general grocer, with a stock amounting to only £27, and a small working capital. He was determined to give his customers service equal to the larger shops.

His business grew steadily. He had to add to his staff and equipment. Orders were obtained from boarding houses, etc., which meant the purchase of a van for deliveries. A "frig." became an essential part of his equipment, also a cash register, automatic scales, bacon slicer, etc.

For sixteen years the shop was rented, but in 1944, during the worst part of the bombing period, the owner decided to dispose of the freehold and property, which our St. Dunstaner purchased.

It has been apparent for some time that extensions would have to be carried out to cope with the increasing trade. This is now being put into effect, and structural alterations are well under way.

There are nearly 500 registered customers, together with a very large passing trade. The shop was to be closed for one week while alterations were carried out, and two weeks' rations were given to all customers. The severe weather, however, has accounted for the one week developing into ten, trade having been carried on from the store room at the back, and customers served from a counter at the side entrance. In spite of this upheaval, rations have been given out, and all customers have been satisfied with their requirements.

A local Food Inspector has stated that his knowledge of rationing is far greater than many sighted shopkeepers. They have yet to find a discrepancy in his returns.

When asked if he had any advice to give prospective shopkeepers, he merely said: "Study your customers, serve them well, and they will tell their friends." J. H. B.

National Laying Test

Report for the fifth period of four weeks,
(February 3rd to March 2nd, 1947)

Position	Name	Test Score
1.	Gregory, T. ...	480
2.	Jackson, G. ...	454
3.	Holmes, P. ...	415
4.	Fisher, T. M. ...	402
5.	McIntosh, C. ...	384
6.	McLaren, D. ...	381
7.	Jarvis, A. ...	362
8.	Chaffin, A. ...	285
9.	Smith, W. Alan ...	223
10.	Watson-Brown, M. ...	182
Average per bird, 67.59 to date		

West House Notes

Last month a cheque for £1,000 was presented to St. Dunstan's at West House by the Brighton, Hove and District Butchers' Association. Lady (Arthur) Pearson accepted the cheque on behalf of St. Dunstan's, and, as always, found time to stay on and chat with some of the men after the ceremony.

We were also happy to welcome Dougie Frith, Joe Carney, Tommy Gaygan, Danny Gallagher, Eric Foster and Stan Heys, who have joined Wally Thomas in representing the New War lads at West House. They came to us in February.

Another visit from Brighton College Boys' Choir to the Chapel Service, on March 2nd, was welcomed, and we all enjoyed the hymns they sang.

This month we have had two play readings from the Staff. The first, on the 9th, was called "Rescue," and the readers were Sisters Carter, Chaddock, Melbourne, and Orderly Webster. On the 16th there was the comedy "She was No Lady," which was read by Sisters Melbourne, Chaddock and Pocock.

Another grand evening was arranged for us by our friends of the Brighton and Hove Grocers Association, on March 12th. Many St. Dunstaners will remember the Grocers' Party of old, and we can assure you that this one was well up to their usual high standard, and the hospitality as warm as ever. There were a number of wonderful prizes, and among the lucky prize winners was Tommy Gaygan (West House); his prize was awarded in the Waltz Competition.

There were our usual Domino and Darts Matches and the Friday Night Dances, and a Whist Drive on the 20th.

In the Lounge on March 6th we held a "Brains Trust," and our team consisted of Messrs. J. Penfold, R. McNiel, L. Bunker and W. Curtis-Willson. Councillor Nicholls was the Question Master and the evening was a great success.

During the week that "Arsenic and Old Lace" was playing in Brighton, Nicholas Parsons, whom we had last seen when he was appearing in "The Hasty Heart," last November, came back to West House one afternoon and brought some of the members of the cast with him. The two "Aunties" in the play immediately won the hearts of

all men, and we were most grateful to them for coming to see us.

The Brighton and Hove Musical Club, who have not visited us for some time, gave us a Concert on the 27th March. They gallantly came in the most appalling weather conditions, for here, as everywhere, it has been somewhat damp this month!

Staff Notice

Mr. H. Bennett will be relinquishing the position of Industrial Director and handing over to Mr. P. Owens the responsibility for placement and after-care of shopkeepers, telephone operators, and men employed in factories and similar jobs. Mr. G. E. C. Zipfel, who has been with St. Dunstan's for twenty-seven years, has been acting as Assistant to Mr. Bennett. He has acquired much knowledge in connection with the work and will continue to act in that capacity to Mr. Owens.

Mr. Bennett will assume responsibility for the control of all matters in connection with the Stores, the purchase and supply of raw materials, and the sale of finished articles, technical visiting, etc., of men following home industry occupations (i.e., joiners, basket-makers, mat-makers, boot repairers, and boot repair depots, netters, wool rug makers, and leather workers). Mr. Doughty continuing his present duties under Mr. Bennett.

Points from Letters

"I found the paragraph, 'Thirty Years Ago,' in the February REVIEW particularly amusing. Mr. C. E. Rose edited the REVIEW in those days, and he needed little imagination to know what happened in the 'Lion's Den' after the debate on Böteler's suggestion that the A.S.C. was the most important section of the Forces."

J. E. DAVIES, Llandyssul.

"The reading of Braille gives me more pleasure than listening to my talking book. It may be because in listening to a good reader one is carried into the depths of the story just a little too much, whereas when reading Braille you make your own picture in your mind. A happy new year to all St. Dunstaners."

W. MORTON.

Mount Lawley, West Australia.

Reunions at Manchester and Sheffield

Sir Ian Fraser addressed a big Reunion of St. Dunstaners at the Tudor Restaurant, Belle Vue, Manchester, on April 11th, when he and Lady Fraser attended the second of the 1947 meetings.

Points from Sir Ian's speech were:—

"I much hope that as many St. Dunstaners as possible will come to our Reunions, and I am glad to see such a big turn-out here at Manchester. It is very difficult to get rooms and food, and we cannot always arrange Reunions on a Saturday; indeed, this is the most difficult day of all. If, therefore, Reunions take place on week-days, as many of them will, I hope very much that men who are working in factories and businesses will try and get a few hours off, even if they have to make it up at some other time. I particularly want St. Dunstaners old and new to meet together and form one strong brotherhood, irrespective of age or occupation." (Applause).

"The residential accommodation at No. 8 Park Crescent, which is provided for men passing through London on their way to Brighton, or if they are coming up to talk business with us, has proved a great success; we shall make a permanent feature of it at our new Headquarters, where there will also be a much more active club, so that London men and those passing through London can meet each other.

"During the war years, St. Dunstan's, with the most valuable help from the British Legion, has secured many pensions and allowance concessions. The unemployable allowance and the married and children's allowance were most notable, and quite recently we have secured from the Minister of Pensions a valuable new concession in relation to attendant allowances, of which particulars will be given in the REVIEW. This means that many St. Dunstaners' attendance allowances will be raised from 10s. to £1 a week, while a number of those who had not received an attendance allowance in the past will now receive 10s. a week. (Applause.)

"We are still pressing for the raising of the flat rate basic pension, which was related to the cost of living. No notable advance in this has been made since 1919. This mainly affects men who are in full-time employment, for others receive the unemployable allowance, but even those in full-time employment suffer from a severe disability which will handicap them always. They work under a strain and doubtless many are denied the better choice of occupation or promotion which would come to them if they were not blinded. For these, and other reasons, we will continue to press for an increase. I have no doubt that at the British Legion Annual Conference, at Whitsun, strong views will be expressed upon this matter.

"The Talking Book has been badly held up, but when the new Studios are in full production we should catch up. There is a very large waiting list for Talking Book machines; we were on the point of being supplied when the fuel crisis arose, but I hope that we shall receive a few during the next few weeks. St. Dunstaners can be assured that they will hear about the new machines as soon as they are available, and that they will be dealt with fairly in accordance with the waiting list."

The meeting gave a warm welcome to Mr. A. Mackay, the new Welfare Superintendent. Sir Ian said that he had settled down very well at St. Dunstan's, and they had come to have a high regard for his ability and understanding of our men's problems. He felt sure that, as Mr. Mackay came to be better known amongst St. Dunstaners all over the country, his qualities and friendly services would be greatly valued. Sir Ian welcomed many old friends of St. Dunstan's, and paid a tribute to the staff, which was heartily endorsed by the meeting. Amongst those present were Mr. S. Cohen, Chairman, South Lancs. County Committee of the British Legion, Mr. H. H. Chesworth, Hon. Secretary, and Major G. Ferguson, M.C., Area Secretary, The North Western Area of the British Legion.

The previous day a most successful meeting was held at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield, at which Mr. Mackay presided (this was his first Reunion), and Horace Kerr attended and spoke about the Talking Book. Those present included Lt.-Col. Denham, D.C.M., Vice-Chairman of the West Riding County (Northern Area), British Legion, Mr. H. Benson, President of the Sheffield and District Group, and Captain M. Sheppard, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., J.P., Chairman of the Sheffield Group.

Other Reunions

As we go to press the following Reunions have been provisionally arranged for 1947:

Liverpool	May 2nd and 3rd
Birmingham	May 10th
Cardiff	May 17th
Bedford	May 29th
Bournemouth	June 3rd
Portsmouth	June 5th
Oxford	June 19th
Wolverhampton	July 5th
Lincoln	July 10th
Leeds	July 12th
Newcastle	July 14th
Edinburgh	August 5th

Further Reunions will be announced next month.

Death

YOUNG.—Our deep sympathy goes out to Robert Young, of Tweedmouth, Berwick-on-Tweed, who lost his wife on March 18th. Mrs. Young had been in failing health for a long time.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages—

Eileen Moore, Cheriton, Folkestone, on August 27th, to Mr. R. Saunders.

Marjorie Spierling (Llangynwyd), on November 9th, to Rhys Bassett Davies.

Joan Burchall (Midhurst), on December 3rd, to J. Mariner.

Hilda Anderson (Angus), on January 6th, in Vancouver.

Thomas Nelson (Newcastle-on-Tyne), on January 4th, to Miss Ellen Mitchell.

L. A. Robinson (Rayleigh) to Miss Elsie Holdaway, on February 15th.

Grace Bryer, Yate, Glos., on March 22nd, to Wilfred Hartley.

Leslie Blackett, Plymouth, on April 5th, to Miss Bettina Medlin.

Arthur Ball (Neath), on April 5th, to Miss Winifred Egan.

★ ★ ★

Valerie Randall (Hove) back from a long E.N.S.A. tour in the Middle East, has been playing with a Repertory Company in Exeter.

★ ★ ★

Phil Sephton, St. Helen's, who is twelve, has been awarded the Town's Educational Scholarship, and has passed with distinction three Royal Academy dancing examinations.

Tribute

In the early 1930's, Miss Sylvia Skimming spent a year at St. Dunstan's teaching in the netting and rug-making department. When war broke out in 1939 she became a Welfare Officer in a Canadian Hospital, and eventually had her own workshop with five teachers. Later, with the British Red Cross, she went to Europe, again getting handicrafts going in every hospital. For her services she was presented with a Red Cross award by the Queen. "And all this, thanks to St. Dunstan's," writes Miss Skimming. "Because of that small beginning I have been able to help so many hundreds of people and found my own fulfilment and great happiness. I owe it all to St. Dunstan's and would like to send you my very grateful thanks for all the lessons of courage and triumph over adversity which my pupils taught me."

"Mr. H."

St. Dunstaners in all parts of the world will hear with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. Richard King Huskinson, O.B.E., whom they will remember with affection as "Mr. H." He died at Brighton on April 3rd at the age of sixty-eight.

"Mr. H." was a voluntary helper at St. Dunstan's almost from the day of its foundation, and when the College Annexe was opened on January 1st, 1917, he became its Adjutant, with Miss Power as Matron. Hundreds of St. Dunstaners will recall those happy days from 1917 until the College closed, and which "Mr. H." and Matron Power themselves described as "the best years of our life."

"Mr. H." was a writer, and for many years, as "Richard King," he has been well-known to readers of the "Tatler" as the author of a weekly book review and essay feature, called "With Silent Friends." There was a period at St. Dunstan's when he edited the "St. Dunstan's Review" jointly with Captain Ian Fraser, as he then was, and he contributed a chapter on "The Psychology of the Blinded Soldier" in Sir Arthur Pearson's book, "Victory over Blindness." In that chapter he wrote: "As a worker, as a useful citizen of the world, and, above all, as a true friend and companion, I would pit a blinded sailor or soldier against any other special class of man in the whole world."

Recent war St. Dunstaners will remember "Mr. H." living in his caravan in the grounds at Church Stretton.

The funeral took place on April 11th, at Brighton, St. Dunstan's being represented by, among others, Mr. L. Banks, Mr. P. Lale, Mrs. Carter, and many St. Dunstaners living in the Brighton district. A wreath from St. Dunstan's bore the inscription:—

"From the blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's in affectionate remembrance of 'Mr. H.' and his help and friendship over many years."

Marriage

SIMPSON—LAVERTY.—On April 5th, Eric Simpson, of Salford, to Miss Laverty.

“ In Memory ”

P. McShane, *New Zealand Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret from D. W. Dougherty, of the New Zealand Blinded Soldiers' Association, of the death of P. McShane, of Auckland, New Zealand.

He fought in France in 1914-1918, but he was not admitted to St. Dunstan's until 1935, his sight having deteriorated a great deal in the preceding few years. He was trained at the Jubilee Institute for the Blind in New Zealand and was unmarried.

Private Charles A. Biggs, *Leicestershire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. A. Biggs, of Sedgley, who served with his regiment from 1903 until October, 1914, when as the result of his service, his sight was severely damaged. It was not, however, until 1921, that he came to St. Dunstan's. He trained as a mat-maker and continued with this work for some years, but in 1944, on account of his wife's serious illness and admission to hospital where she has remained since, he became a permanent resident at our Homes.

He died of pneumonia at West House, Brighton, on February 22nd, and was buried in Brighton Cemetery near other old comrades. A wreath from St. Dunstan's was among the flowers.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife.

Private Herbert Walter Nightingale, *1st Devonshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of H. W. Nightingale, of Brighton.

Enlisting in 1914 on the day war broke out, he was wounded in France in 1916 and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1918. He was trained as a netter, but he had not been able to follow this occupation for some time on account of his serious illness. He passed away on March 31st, leaving a wife and family, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral.

Private George Sharp, *2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of G. Sharp, of Maidstone, on March 25th.

He enlisted in June, 1916, and in 1918 was badly gassed in France. It was not, however, until 1939 that he was brought to St. Dunstan's notice and admitted to our benefits. He was trained as a netter, but for some time past, his health has not been good. He had been a member of the Order of Oddfellows for forty-five years.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral.

A.C.2 W. Henry Bossom, *Royal Air Force*

With deep regret we record the death of W. H. Bossom, of Crewe.

His service with the Royal Air Force dated from March, 1913, until September, 1921, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1938. His health was always poor and although he learned wool-rug work and light stool-making, for the past four years he had done no work at all. He was a very sick man for some time before his death. He had a break at West House, Brighton, recently, but he passed away at his home on March 25th, after a short period of hospital treatment.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral, St. Dunstan's being represented by Mrs. Dunphy, who was at one time his Social Visitor.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and two children in their loss.

Private Edward Joseph Thompson, *Royal Marines*

We record with deep regret the death of E. J. Thompson, of Kenton, on April 1st, the eve of his 79th birthday.

He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1919, his sight having failed as a result of his service. For some time he carried on mat-making and, later a little back-yard poultry keeping. He was active right up to the last weeks of his life, going out alone and enjoying long expeditions. He was at the London Reunion on January 23rd and enjoyed it immensely.

A widower, he lived with his niece, to whom our deep sympathy is offered. A wreath from St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral. Before the ceremony the fourth verse of Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen," was read for an Old Comrade by the Standard Bearer of the British Legion (Kenton Branch), who followed the cortege to the graveside.

Births

BIRKIN.—On March 1st, to the wife of A. Birkin, of Small Heath, Birmingham—a son.

LAWSON.—On April 9th, to Jack and Mary Lawson, of Warrington, a daughter—Jacqueline.

MORTON.—To the wife of J. A. Morton, of High Wycombe, on February 14th—a son, Edward John.

SOUTHALL.—On March 6th, to the wife of S. Southall, of Warley—a son, Michael Joseph.

SWAIN.—On March 23rd, to the wife of H. Swain (trainee), a daughter.

WINDLEY.—On December 8th, to the wife of H. Windley, of Hull—a daughter, Carol Mary.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Good Luck to Mr. Mace

MR. A. Mace, accompanied by his wife and daughter, sail for Australia just about the time these notes are being printed. Although he has been with St. Dunstan's for 28 years, he still has a good many years of active work ahead of him, and he has retired from our service for purely personal reasons.

I well remember a day in 1919 in my little temporary wartime office in Regent's Park when he came to me for an interview, and as a result joined the small staff I was then building up in our newly-formed After Care Department. He was our first Massage Superintendent, and has held that post ever since. He and I together handled the Settlements and After Care of our early masseurs, chose and devised the apparatus and equipment they would require, and made a plan for starting them out in private practice.

No group of St. Dunstaners have been more consistently successful than our masseurs—now called physiotherapists—and their achievements are the result of their own abilities and hard work, and Mr. Mace's patience, wisdom, technical knowledge and commonsense. Although disabled himself by the loss of one eye and the impairment of the other, he led an arduous life, travelling all over the country visiting the practitioners in their homes, and handling much correspondence and the buying and installation of equipment. Thus, when the physiotherapists from the Second War were ready to go out into the world, we had at hand a man of great experience to help them to start. Both generations, and all the staff who came in contact with Mr. Mace, will share with me the view that in his resignation we lose one to whom St. Dunstan's owes much, as well as a warm-hearted personal friend.

I do not know whether Mr. Mace intends to retire altogether, or whether after a rest he will take up active work again in Australia. I should guess the latter, because he is a man who, it seems to me, will only be happy doing something to help another fellow, and if this turns out to be the case, his unrivalled experiences in dealing with the rehabilitation of ex-service men may prove of value in the Commonwealth.

It is a curious but happy coincidence that at the last Annual Conference of Physiotherapists held in Brighton a presentation was made to him. This spontaneous tribute of affection, to which all physiotherapists subscribed, reflected their admiration for his long work and for his sustained efforts during the war years, but at the time, none of them, nor any of us at Headquarters, knew of his impending retirement.

Welcome, Australia

I have had the pleasure during the month to welcome Joe Lynch, C.B.E., President of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association, who arrived in this country by air with Mrs. Lynch. Joe is visiting England to discuss with my staff and me the offer which we recently made to the Australian Government to welcome as our guests any blinded members of the Australian Forces whom the Australian Government decided to send over to St. Dunstan's for training.

Joe Lynch has already spent a week at Ovingdean, and amongst the instructors there, as well as at West House, our Holiday Home, has met a number of old friends who knew him at St. Dunstan's during the period of the first World War.

IAN FRASER.

News from South Africa

In a letter to Headquarters, Edward Denny, of Pretoria, writes :

"The Royal Family have been enthusiastically received everywhere and all sections have fallen in love with the Queen while the Princesses have received their share of adoration and, of course, the King has made himself extremely popular. They arrived at Pretoria by the White Train on the morning of March 29th and left, by aeroplane, for Salisbury, on April 7th. The three planes passed immediately over our flat.

"The weather during their stay in Pretoria was none too kind and much rain fell. Rain was falling right up to the time of the arrival of the Royal Train, but subsided for a time as the King left the station platform. Mrs. Denny and I and Mr. and Mrs. Higgo, representing St. Dunstaners of World War I and II respectively, were presented at the railway station to the King and Queen who chatted with us for some minutes. Field Marshal Smuts was with them and also shook hands with us. The King was much interested when I told him about my 32 years service in the Royal Navy, British Army, and South African Defence Forces and the Queen seemed to know all about St. Dunstan's and asked me whether I had been in the new home at Ovingdean."

Derby Sweepstake

Last Days

The closing date of the Derby Sweepstake (open only to St. Dunstaners), is **Friday, May 23rd**. The draw will take place on Tuesday, June 3rd, and those drawing horses will be notified the following day. The race is to be run on Saturday, June 7th.

Reunions, 1947

Since the first list of Reunion dates was published, a few slight amendments have been made. The list now stands as follows :

Swansea (previously Cardiff)	May	17th
Bedford	„	29th
Bournemouth	June	3rd
Portsmouth	„	5th
Maidstone	„	16th
Oxford	„	19th
Leicester	„	21st
Brighton	„	26th
Guildford	„	28th
Colchester	July	1st
Norwich	„	2nd
Wolverhampton	„	5th
Lincoln	„	10th
Leeds	„	12th
Newcastle	„	14th
Edinburgh	Aug.	5th

During the month, successful Reunions were held at Liverpool on Friday and Saturday, May 2nd and 3rd, and at Birmingham, on May 10th. At the Friday Liverpool meeting, Mr. T. F. Lister, C.B.E., past Chairman of the British Legion, was the Guest of Honour, and at the Saturday meeting, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present, with Col. John Shute, C.M.G., D.S.O., Chairman of the Liverpool Branch of the Legion, and Mr. W. H. Home, Vice-Chairman, Liverpool Branch. At Birmingham, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser again attended and welcomed Mr. Brazener and other representatives of the British Legion.

Grandfathers

Dr. Ludwik B. Rosenberg, whose daughter, Janina, gave birth to a daughter in Athens on March 3rd; S. C. Smith, of Derby, whose daughter has had a son; W. Robinson, of Grantham, a granddaughter, and A. King, of Bradford, a grandson.

Duplication in Braille Magazines

G. Fallowfield recently drew attention in the REVIEW to the fact that stories contained in certain braille magazines were often reprinted in other braille publications, sometimes several times. We have now received from Major C. H. W. G. Anderson, Headmaster of the Royal Blind School, the following letter :

"I had already noted this complaint when the proofs came to me and had gone into the matter so far as *Hora Jucunda* and *Hampstead* are concerned. I am satisfied that this happens very rarely indeed, because, as you are aware, we print both of these magazines and our transcribers, stereotypers, and proof readers all have an opportunity of seeing the matter in braille and, in addition, my clerical assistant in the printing department, in every case, and I myself in most cases, also see it. I am aware that it did happen more than once in the early days of the war, when I was away and when the matter for both magazines not infrequently came very late. I am very doubtful, indeed, whether there was any justification for the use of the phrase, 'so frequently,' even six years ago and I am satisfied that it is not now justifiable.

"I have adjured everyone connected with the printing of *Hora* and *Hampstead* to be on the lookout for repetition and will hold up publication if necessary to avoid such a happening. I have also written to the N.I.B. passing on the complaint, telling them that a blind member of my editorial staff will make it her job to note the contents of *Progress* and asking that the same job may be done at the N.I.B. so far as *Hora* and *Hampstead* are concerned."

We much appreciate Major Anderson's friendly and prompt action in the matter and hope that the N.I.B. will also co-operate in the way he has suggested.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversary :—

Mr. and Mrs. R. Black, late of Gateshead, and now of Denton, Manchester, March 29th ; Mr. and Mrs. J. Macfarlane, of Ilford, May 20th.

★ ★ ★

The son of J. Davies, of Wrexham, has been made Captain of Plymouth Argyle football team.

From Mr. Mace

The time has come when for health and family reasons I must relinquish the appointment of Superintendent of the Physiotherapy Department at St. Dunstan's that I have had the privilege to hold for the last twenty-eight years. My wife, myself and daughter are going to Australia to join my son who has been there for many years.

It is a physical impossibility for me to get round in the short time I have before I sail in mid-May to say a personal goodbye and I therefore must content myself with saying farewell through the medium of the REVIEW.

At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation to all St. Dunstan's Physiotherapists for their kindness and hospitality whenever I have called upon them, and of their friendship to me. I go away feeling that I retain this friendship and have your good wishes, which is a happy thought for me and I wish you continued success in your profession. To the students who are in training, I say that if they emulate those who have gone before them, they are bound to find happiness and prosperity and I wish them luck.

Although I am going far away, it is my intention to keep in touch with St. Dunstan's ; it has been so much of my life that I cannot think of a complete break and I hope that I shall have the pleasure of having news from you all.

A. MACE.

From Our Press Cuttings

The *Brighton Gazette* of May 3rd had a photograph of film star Joan Greenwood dancing with T. McKay, of Edinburgh, at the Regent Dance Hall, Brighton, where she was making a personal appearance.

From the *Telegraph and Argus*, Bradford :

"Very many local ex-service men of the 1914-18 war have been delighted to renew acquaintance with an old comrade-in-arms in the person of 'Tommy' Kenefick, formerly of the 1-6th West Yorks and one of the most popular personalities in local ex-servicemen's circles. His home is now in Kent, but for a week or so he is exchanging its gardens and hop-fields for 'these gritty paving stones' of Worstedopolis and Bradford is all the cheerier for his presence."

Letter to the Editor

Jury Service

From Mr. H. D. Rice, St. Dunstan's legal adviser at Headquarters.

DEAR EDITOR,

Your law, and for that matter, the law of Whitaker's Almanack, so far as blind person acting as Jurymen is concerned, is bad. There is no statutory provision whereby a blind person is automatically disqualified or exempted from serving on a jury. The Electoral Officers have no power to omit the jury mark from the name of a blind person, but he is entitled to apply to be excused from attending if he should at any time be called upon to serve.

Please don't ask the Editor of Whitaker's Almanack to apologise, as he has already done so.

Yours etc.,

H. D. RICE.

Correspondents Wanted

We have received the following letter from Mr. H. Amblard, Secretary-General of the French Union of War-Blinded (Union des Aveugles de Guerre):

"One of our members, Captain Hauser, who is set up in business in Dijon, would like to correspond with a St. Dunstaner and asked me to help him to get into touch with one of your members. He was wounded at the outset of this war, 1939, and would prefer a correspondent of his generation. Captain Hauser is an excellent member of our Union and I should be grateful if you could do him this service. His address is Andre Hauser, 4 Avenue Victor-Hugo, Dijon (Cote d'Or), France.

We have also received requests from two more German blinded soldiers who would like a British correspondent. One is 27, married, who was blinded and received injuries crippling his hands in Russia; the other is 30, and unmarried.

The Editor will supply these addresses to any St. Dunstaner wishing to have them.

★ ★ ★

Mr. J. H. Dongan, of 84 Pine Road, Kirkclithan Eastate, Redcar, would appreciate copies of old braille magazines and periodicals and would also welcome braille correspondents.

R.A.O.B.

Congratulations to Bro. Samuel C. Loram, of Brixham, Devon, who has been elected as the Provincial Grand Primo of the Brixham, Dartmouth and South Hams Province of the R.A.O.B. G.L.E.

The news comes to us from the Provincial Grand Secretary, Bro. R. J. Worth, who writes: "This is a very scattered Province; to visit one lodge means a return trip of over 75 miles, but with the assistance of P.G. Sec., Bro. Sam has visited each lodge at least twice during the first quarter of this year, with numerous visits to Lodges in other Provinces . . . Should any St. Dunstaner who is also a member of the Order visit the Torbay area during the coming summer, Bro. Sam will be pleased to meet them in the Prince of Orange Lodge, Platel's Hotel, Brixham, on Saturday evenings.

In Brief

J. G. Healy, of Blackpool, was the author of a short story, "The Conversion of Rollo," which appeared in the April issue of the *Home Review*.

★ ★ ★

J. W. Gill has been made a life member of the Droylsden branch of the British Legion.

★ ★ ★

J. H. Mason, of Bognor, was the shop-keeper referred to last month in the article headed, "Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow."

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," May, 1917:

Our first summer concert was held under ideal conditions—for winter. In April one naturally expects something pleasant and balmy in the way of weather. But on this occasion the snow fell as it had not fallen in April for half a century, so the weather experts said.

We do not often have a child of five to entertain us, but little Miss Estella Branson of that age was a great success with her songs. The little dance she did might very well have been done without, but the fact that she did it was not her fault, but rather that of those who brought her.

Miss Dorothy Pain has assumed her Commandant's red frock and presents a brave appearance. The pleasant warmth of the colour did something to reconcile us to the inclemency of the weather.

West House Notes

An early Easter this year, so early that it seemed we had scarcely recovered from Christmas and the New Year before the new batch of holiday-makers were upon us! However, All Fools' Day passed us by almost uneventfully and on Thursday the rush began. The programme, we think you will agree, was well up to the standard of Christmas and we have been happy to hear from many of those who spent a short break with us that it was also as enjoyable.

The holiday programme started off on Thursday evening with a Concert from the "Youth Takes a Bow" Company; Plumpton Races on Saturday and again on Easter Monday, whilst at West House we arranged a big Whist Drive and Domino Tournament on Saturday afternoon for St. Dunstaners in the Brighton district. That same evening, we were all entertained at a Party devised and produced, in the main, by Sisters "Chad" and "Chas." Our old enemy, space, denies us the opportunity of giving you the low-down on their highly amusing commentary on the men going in to lunch—perhaps it is just as well for such things are hard to reproduce as amusingly as the original.

On Easter Sunday, a number of men attended Holy Communion at St. Anne's in the morning and returned to West House in time to receive their Easter parcel from a trolley laden high and decorated with spring flowers. The Nigger Minstrel who presented each present, had something to say to each man in Sister Chaddock's own inimitable manner.

That afternoon, the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton visited West House and then there was the Special Service and dedication of a charming picture, a copy of Raphael's "Madonna and Child," in memory of the late Matrons Thellusson and Boyd-Rochfort. West House Chapel Funds were used to provide the picture and the Chapel was looking very lovely with a new prayer rug of Madonna blue which had been made and presented by George Richardson specially for the occasion.

In the evening, the men arranged their own Concert—or rather, "Costi" arranged the programme. Charlie Thomas sang and there was a surprise visit from "Laura" and her accompanist from the Canadian "Meet the Navy" Show. She was intro-

duced by Mr. W. G. Hopkins, Chairman of the local Canadian Ex-Servicemen's Association. There were piano and guitar solos from Tommy White, and Reg White sang and told a few stories. Altogether a very enjoyable evening's entertainment.

Such a week-end! You can imagine it is difficult to pick the high-spot. If you are a boxing fan, then it would undoubtedly have been Easter Monday morning when Joe Baksi and his trainer, Ray Arcel, found time to drop in on us. We should like to find room here to tell you how extremely kind Baksi has been to the lads at West House during the time he was at Brighton in training—almost any afternoon you would have found one of our men down at the Gym whilst Baksi was having a "try-out." Some of the news even found its way to the National Press.

If it's a swing fan you are, well we had that too! After a party of men went to the Concert at the Dome on Easter Monday, Mr. Jack Leslie who organised the Concert brought most of the artistes along to West House that same afternoon. There was Robin Richmond and the Swing Choir, and the star visitor, Cyril Fletcher—all in extremely good form and high spirits. We only wished they could have stayed a little longer, but they had come between shows and it was indeed a flying visit.

On April 9th, a party of twenty went for a picnic to Beachy Head and from then until the end of the month, we had our usual arrangements for darts, dominoes and housey-housey, as well as visits to theatres and our Friday night dances. Concerts at West House included one from S.E.F.A., a party we were happy to welcome back again after an absence of several months.

Towards the end of the month, we were delighted to have a visit from Don Welsh, Chris Duffy and Sam Bartram of the Charlton F.A. team. Commandant, Mrs. Carter, Duggie Frith and Johnny Mooney had visited the team during their stay at the Hotel Metropole and invited them along to sample West House hospitality.

An eventful month came to a close—one which had been marred only by the sad news of the death of Alec Lawlor in the Royal Sussex County Hospital on Easter Monday. Alec, who had been a permanent at West House for some time, will be greatly missed by one and all.

Springboks' Laager

On the evening of May 9th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser gave a dinner party at the Café Royal for South African St. Dunstaners in training and others of us with South African connections.

Reunions of this kind are always pleasant occasions and as soon as we entered the lounge we were greeted by the hubbub of voices of people renewing old friendships, and we joined in the exchange of warm handshakes. As an ex-Tembanian, it was grand meeting our former matron, Miss Pease, again, and to hear a few familiar Afrikaner voices. Most of the other fellows had arrived at Tembani after I had left, but the mention of names like Mrs. Chadwick Bates, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Alers Hankey and Colonel Woon at once started a succession of questions and answers. After an excellent dinner, we toasted the King in South African wine. Sir Ian then rose to welcome his guests, the guest of honour being the South African High Commissioner, Mr. George Heaton Nicholls; others included Mr. J. Lynch, St. Dunstaner and head of the Australian Blinded ex-Servicemen's Organisation, and Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Phillips, head of the South African Red Cross in this country—a very good friend to our Springbok St. Dunstaners—Mr. Grenfell Williams, Director of the South African programme of the B.B.C., who brought along Miss Rose Alper and Mr. Norrie Sowman, two South African artists, to entertain us. Sir Ian went on to say how glad he was that the South African blinded ex-servicemen had come to England for training, and said it gave us in England a chance to repay a little of the unbounded hospitality that had been lavished upon St. Dunstaners and all British troops who were fortunate enough to stay a while in South Africa. I know all Tembanians will be grateful to Sir Ian for the expressions of deep gratitude which he made to the people of the Union on our behalf. With the mention of Tembani, Sir Ian regretted that Mrs. Bates was not with us, but spoke for all when he said how much we were looking forward to her arrival over here in June for a well-earned holiday. A telegram of affection and good wishes for her journey had been sent to her. Wishing the Springboks the best of luck for the future, Sir Ian said he was sure they

would bring nothing but credit to the name of St. Dunstan's. Coupling the name of the High Commissioner with the toast of South Africa, Sir Ian told of Mr. Heaton Nicholl's distinguished career in the public life of that great country, and before drinking the toast, our Springboks gave an excellent rendering of their National Anthem, "Die Stem." Replying, the High Commissioner expressed gratitude to St. Dunstan's for looking after his country's blinded ex-servicemen, and was confident that the future of his compatriots was assured. St. Dunstan's, he said, was yet another tie cementing together our two countries. If the "Oubaas" were present, he would thank his gallant Springboks, not only for the services which they had already rendered to their country, but for those which they will be able to give in the future. Having just returned from the Union, he told us something of the wonderful success of the Royal Tour and of how Their Majesties had done more in bringing the peoples of South Africa together, and even closer to the Mother Country than would many years of legislation. Sir Ian then asked the Commandant, Air Commodore Dacre, to read a telegram of greetings and good wishes which had been sent to the Royal Family aboard *Vanguard* "from South African blinded soldiers and other South Africans assembled at dinner in London under the auspices of St. Dunstan's," and the reply which had been received from Their Majesties' private secretary, expressing the Royal thanks.

Danie Pretorius, who was called upon to propose the toast to St. Dunstan's, made a brilliant speech, packed with Afrikaans humour and metaphor, and he spoke with deep feeling of "the thousands of helping hands at St. Dunstan's which were guiding him and his comrades across the dark river of blindness to a new and happy future on the other side of the bank." He pledged their life-long loyalty to "The Flaming Torch—our Guiding Light."

The High Commissioner had to leave directly after dinner and was given a rousing send-off to the strains of "He's a jolly good fellow." With a smile and a wave of the hand, he bade us "Tot Siens."

Miss Alper and Mr. Sowman, catering for the bilinguists, entertained with English and Afrikaans songs—we even had a bit of Zulu from Mr. Sowman.

It was a grand evening and I think Laura Ellis voiced our thoughts when, replying to the Toast to the Ladies, proposed by Ken McIntyre, she thanked Sir Ian for giving us all a breath of South Africa.

"ROOINEK."

★ ★ ★

Those present at the South African Party were Captain and Mrs. William Owen, Mr. and Mrs. Van Niekerk, Mr. and Mrs. D. Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Weeks, and Messrs. Johnny Koehorst, Danie Pretorius, Frank Mandy, B. Hodgson, J. Verster, P. Botha and Ken McIntyre.

Mr. Grenfell Williams, African Director of the B.B.C., and two South African artists, Miss Rose Alper and Mr. Norrie Sowman; Air Commodore Dacre and Mrs. Dacre, herself a South African; Mr. A. Mackay, Mr. J. A. Gray, Editor, *South Africa*, Miss Hester Pease, Miss Wilson, Mr. J. E. Rose, Mr. Pat Owens and Mr. Peter Matthews, members of the staff.

The High Commissioner for South Africa, Mr. George Heaton Nicholls, Mrs. C. Phillips, Commandant South African Red Cross.

Australia was represented by Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Lynch and Captain and Mrs. Ted Blackmore, and New Zealand by Mr. A. J. Somervell.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Eileen Moore, Folkestone, on August 27th, to R. Saunders.

Dennis Mortimer, R.N., Hull, on April 7th, to Eva Foston.

Edward Haslam, Crewe, to Iris Warboys, on December 21st; Ethel Haslam to Wilfred Johnson, February 11th, and Ivy Haslam to Jack Moss, April 9th.

Kenneth Allan, Darlington, at Easter, to Christine Ross Adams.

Petty Officer Leslie Blackett, Plymouth, to Bettina Katie Medlin.

★ ★ ★

Elizabeth Owen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Owen, of Blaenau Festiniog, is now a State Registered Nurse.

Basic Rate of Pensions

Sir Ian Fraser asks for an Increase

Speaking in the House of Commons on the Motion for Adjournment on Thursday, May 1st, Sir Ian Fraser said:

The Government have decided to throw over the cost of living index, under which we have worked for a very long time, and it is indeed time they did because it is out of date and misleading. The British Legion and Members of the House have been pointing out to one Government after another for the past twenty-five years that this index was not related to the reality of the life of our people. That is not surprising when you consider it was devised upon tables prepared in 1904.

Why is the old index being thrown over? Because it is out of date partly, but also presumably because the Government expects a rise to take place in the cost of living, and it would embarrass them. It would affect the wages of three to four million people and the pensions of three quarters of a million more pensioners.

Will the Government stand by its obligations although they are altering the index? Sir Ian demanded. Are consultations going on between the Government and the British Legion and other ex-Servicemen's representatives? No! They are not, and since there are 750,000 people to whom the State owes an obligation in this matter, the second question that I have to ask the Minister is whether he will call ex-Servicemen's representatives and the British Legion into consultation so that they may have a fair chance as the two sides of industry of asking how this new cost of living index is to be constructed, and how it will operate in relation to the men in whom they are interested.

Continuing, Sir Ian said:

"I think a rise in the basic rate of pension is already due. In 1919 the 100 per cent. disabled man was given £2 a week as a flat rate pension. He has since been raised to £2 5s. to assimilate his rate to that which is to be paid under the Social Insurance Act for disability. In addition to that, he receives a marriage allowance for a wife, whenever he marries her—that is a recent innovation—he gets children's allowances, as he always did, but he gets them for all his children, and if he is unemployable he draws £1 a week unemployability allowance. Moreover, if he is unemployable, his wife's allowance is 16s. instead of 10s.

I should like to take a case to show what this means. A man who is disabled in the highest degree receives £2 5s. for himself, plus £1 if he is unemployable, plus 16s. for his wife, making £4 1s. in all. He may be a veteran of the first war, and he is keeping himself and his wife on that money. His daughter, who may be 19 and may be working for the Minister of Pensions in his office, will get £4, plus, if she is an unskilled typist or messenger girl, and £5 or more if she is a shorthand typist. Is £4 1s. enough for that man?

There are 30,000 men disabled in the highest degree. I think that only a very few of them receive attendant allowances, and only a handful get the big attendant allowances. I think that there is, therefore, a case for raising the basic rate, especially for the man who does not qualify for those allowances.

Out of the whole body of pensioners, who number 750,000, 450,000 belong to this recent war. Of these, some 60,000 receive pensions above 50 per cent., and the balance, nearly four-fifths of the whole number, receive 50 per cent. or less.

My contention is that the pound is not worth as much to-day as it was in 1919, whatever the cost of living figure may be. I do not want to be sentimental about the beer and cigarettes, but I would ask the House to realise that if a disabled sailor, soldier or airman has ten cigarettes a day and one pint of beer, it will cost him 19s. 3d. a week. If he has a Guinness on Sunday the total will be over the pound. Is he to abstain, or is he to be given a pension which will enable him to have some of these small amenities of life which I think that a grateful people in 1919 meant him to have?

I would draw to a close by making these requests to the Minister. First, will he consult the representatives of the ex-Servicemen as he is consulting the representatives of industry? Second, will he look into the question now and see whether a rise in the basic rate of the 100 per cent. and all the other percentages is not already due?"

Mr. Derek Walker-Smith, M.P. for Hertford, associated himself with the case put forward by Sir Ian, and the new Minister of Pensions, Mr. John Hynd, then rose to reply. He said:

The Hon. Member opened his remarks by suggesting that the Government are considering examining the cost of living index because we are expecting a heavy rise in the cost of living, and we would not wish this to be reflected in increased wages. It is a new suggestion to me, and contrary to the facts.

The Hon. Member knows better than anyone else that so far as war pensions are concerned, they are not related to any cost of living figure. I do not think he will dispute that, because it is generally accepted.

Sir Ian: I do challenge that most definitely. I have the statements of successive Ministers, made over the last 25 years—and I have chapter and verse that the flat rate is, in fact, related to the cost of living.

Mr. Hynd: It was a fact that the original 1914–1918 pensions were related to the cost of living indexes, and an assurance given that the pensions would be adjusted according to the rise and fall in the cost of living index figure over a margin of 5 per cent., but as was implied by subsequent statements of Ministers not of this Government, the Minister of Pensions, in 1928, made a very clear statement that while there would be no reduction in the pension rate as a result of the fall in the cost of living index figures, there might be an increase, assuming that the cost of living rose over 215, which was the level in 1919—that was provided there was no substantial change in the pension range by the addition of new classes of beneficiaries. There have been substantial alterations by the additions of new classes as a result of the 1939–45 war.

In August, 1943, it was decided to assimilate the basic pension rates for the two wars at the rate of 40s. The Hon. Member knows that in December, 1945, the pension was increased to 45s., but not because of a rise in the cost of living. That, as the Hon. Member says, was due to the fact that we were recognising a new factor, namely, the relationship

between the war pensioned and the victims of industrial injury. It was said those who had suffered in the war in the service of their country ought not to receive disability pensions lower than those granted to the casualties of industry. I believe that view has been generally accepted by the House.

What the Hon. Member for Lonsdale (Sir Ian Fraser) has said, of course, is that the relationship to the industrial injuries scheme is not enough in the present situation. It was generally accepted by the House and in the country that it was preferable to pay attention to the most needy cases and to adjust such sums as were available for war pensions purposes on that basis to ensure that the most needy cases had the most benefit.

I am sure that, with the advantage of consultation with the Hon. Member and his colleagues, we will be able to examine the whole of the repercussions of present-day conditions, including any changes that may be made in the cost of living or any other factor in relation to the existing pensions. If it were not for the fact that the outcome of the present discussions in regard to the cost of living were so hypothetical at this time, I would have preferred to have been able to give him a direct reply.

From the Chairman's Post-Bag

From Jimmie Ellis, of London, S.W.16:

"After reading your article in the REVIEW, I got a fellow St. Dunstaner to teach me the deaf-blind alphabet and I was surprised to find how easy it is; the most difficult thing about it is deciding to have the first lesson. I think if people realised that it only takes five or ten minutes to learn, many more would make the effort."

Ellis goes on to suggest that the morse code should be used to carry on conversation between ordinary St. Dunstaners and deaf St. Dunstaners. This suggestion has been passed on to our Research Committee, but it is understood that the objection hitherto taken to the use of morse is that it is not widely known, also that it is far more difficult to feel morse signals than to hear them.

An Old Friend

Men who were at Tembani will be interested to hear that when Jimmie Ellis was speaking on St. Dunstan's at the Central Hall, Wellingborough, recently, he met Mrs. Martha Houghton, known to all Tembanians as "Ma." Mrs. Houghton was a V.A.D. in the 1914–18 war and her interest in St. Dunstan's began when her brother-in-law, Charles Negus, was blinded and came to St. Dunstan's. She was visiting her brother in South Africa when war broke out in 1939 and was unable to return to this country. She offered her services as housekeeper to St. Dunstan's, South Africa, and remained there until Tembani closed down.

Ovingdean Notes

We have welcomed this month, P. J. Lynch, C.B.E., President of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association, who is in England as a guest of St. Dunstan's, accompanied by his wife.

The Trainee House, Northgate, will close down at the end of the Summer Term, 1947, in preparation for its new function as a St. Dunstaners' Children's Holiday Home. The Trainee Convalescent Home, Arundel Lodge, will also close at the end of the Summer Term Leave period.

The month has proved to be quite a "Radio Star" interval for St. Dunstan's, Brighton. Ted Heath and his Band paid a visit to us on May 3rd, when a large and enthusiastic audience gathered in the Recreation Hut to hear this famous Band—our "swing" fans being in their element. On Sunday, May 4th, a party of trainees went to West House to hear another Radio Star, Stewart MacPherson, who indeed, entertained all present with his "Twenty Questions."

The Earl Haig Club invited a party of trainees and partners to a dance and social; a darts team match was in progress during the evening, which, incidentally, was won by the trainees.

Thursday, April 24th, marked another anniversary of an enjoyable dance and quiz given by the Staff of Plummer Roddis, Ltd., Brighton, in their restaurant. Arthur Cavanagh contributed to the evening's jollification by singing a few songs.

We now have a "14-18 Club," formed by old war St. Dunstaners and presided over by Mr. Jennings, House Steward. Meetings are held each Wednesday when opinions on various subjects are voiced, with debates and discussions in comparison with the younger viewpoint.

Mondays at 4.30, are "Quiz Nights," with a team for each dormitory. It is indeed interesting to listen to the pace quicken in less than fifteen minutes.

No fewer than six first class Darts Matches have been played around the district and we are pleased to relate that we have been successful on every occasion, winning matches in some cases with a big margin. The clubs concerned are the Roussillon Club, the Earl Haig Club, the Arlington Hotel, and the Golf Club, all of Brighton, the Trevor Arms at Glynde,

and the Hove Sports Club.

There have been two Knock-Out Competitions for Totally Blinded and those with Slight Sight. Results of the first competition were as follows:—

Totally Blinded: *Semi-Sighted:*

1.

Winner—J. Walsh Winner—S. Gimber

Runner-up— Runner-up—

T. Rogers B. Bignal

2.

Winner—S. Fletcher Winner—B. Harby

Runner-up— Runner-up—

N. Crane S. Gimber

The marriage took place between Alexander Guyler and Mary Killgallon at St. Martha's Catholic Church, Rottingdean, on May 3rd, the reception taking place at St. Dunstan's Hostel, "Brackley."

We deeply regret to report that Jack Bell, who joined us at Ovingdean on February 5th, 1947, died in the Atkinson-Morley Hospital, Wimbledon, on Sunday, May 4th.

Test Results

Writing Test.—N. Nolde, R. Page.

Advanced Test.—J. E. Davies.

Typing Test.—E. Bedford, L. Edwards.
AVENUE ROAD

Writing.—George Mortimer.

Typing.—Roman Dobrowolski.

Sunday Collections, Ovingdean

During last term, the Sunday collections amount to £8, which is being donated as follows: £2 each to the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League, King George's Fund for Sailors, the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, and Pearson's Fresh Air Fund.

Placements

David Taylor, as a packer with his old firm, Messrs. Thomas Plant (Birmingham), Ltd.; Jozef Milewczyk, as a drilling machine operator with the Hercules Cycle Co., Birmingham; Bronislaw Dobrey, also as a drilling machine operator with the Hercules Cycle Co.; G. Poole, as a telephonist with Messrs. Caldwell's, Ltd., Warrington; C. E. Roberts, at the Remploi Factory, Salford; C. J. Walker, in a tobacco and confectionery business at Seven Sisters Road, London, N.; H. Holden, in a tobacconist business in Holloway Road, London, N.19; P. Sheehan, as tobacconist and stationer, at Chislehurst; D. Faulkner, of Smethwick, in a fish and chip business.

Long Treatment Cases to Remain in Services

In the House of Commons on April 16th, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Minister of Defence if he would arrange with the Service Ministers to retain in the Services, and in uniform, officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks, who are still undergoing plastic and other more or less continuous treatment for severe wounds and mutilation, having regard to the bad psychological effect of discharging these men before their treatment is completed.

The Minister of Defence (Mr. A. V. Alexander): Personnel suffering from disabilities attributable to or aggravated by service are at present retained in the Services, in uniform, until medical or surgical finality is reached, within an overriding time limit of $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. I am glad to say that in future such men will not be discharged from the Services until their treatment is completed, provided that there is a prospect of this within a predictable time.

Sir Ian: May I take it that that means even if it is after $2\frac{1}{2}$ years?

Mr. Alexander: We shall not adhere to the $2\frac{1}{2}$ year limit in future, but will keep the men in the Service except in those cases where finality of the treatment is unpredictable.

Jimmy Wright, now at the Queen Victoria Hospital East Grinstead, writes:

"I have handed the copy of Sir Ian's questions and the Minister's replies to all those concerned on long term treatment and amongst the surgeons here. They are all delighted and wish to congratulate and thank Sir Ian for his successful efforts on their behalf. This new agreement will not only benefit Service men in our hospital, but all over the country. Please pass on my own personal thanks to Sir Ian."

St. Dunstan's Old Boys

Let me begin by saying that although I am of the second world war, I am not very young myself, and some of my friends of the 1914—1918 war would be most indignant if I spoke of them as being old. No, I use the term "old boys" as one would refer to former members of a school.

I was down at Brighton during the Easter week-end, and it was good to renew

acquaintance with those whom I had met at Mrs. Spurway's camps, and to meet others from the old school. Our elders should always have a good influence on us, and at St. Dunstan's I have most certainly found this so. It was encouraging and refreshing to be with these men again, nearly all of whom have quite a distinctive individual personality. I noticed this fact very plainly that with few exceptions each of them has a force of character which made itself felt to me, a character which, if we younger men can reflect and infuse into ourselves, we shall have acquired something. Yes, that is it, they have got that something extra that we haven't got; they are sound, stable and balanced. I expect it is after thirty years of blindness and considerable meditation that they have arrived at a wise and calm philosophy of life, while we on the other hand are still a bit wild and woolly, too impetuous and impatient and unsettled. We have to have some of the corners knocked off us and some of the rough edges smoothed down, and I for one sincerely hope that the passing years will have the same mellowing effect on me as they have had on the men of the 1914—1918 war.

It was a grand week-end, full of entertainment, interest and good fellowship. Like "old boys" at a school reunion, they moved around in a spirit of easy-going comradeship, with a friendly greeting for everyone. They have shown us the way, and we of the new generation will always be indebted to them for their magnificent example, their ready friendship and their willingness to help us at all times.

ANON.

National Laying Test

Report for the sixth period of four weeks
(March 3rd to March 30th, 1947)

Position	Name	Test Score
1.	Gregory, T. ...	571
2.	Jackson, George ...	546
3.	Holmes, Percy ...	521
4.	Fisher, T. M. ...	498
5.	McLaren, David ...	497
6.	McIntosh, Charles ...	494
7.	Jarvis, Albert ...	485
8.	Chaffin, Albert ...	362
9.	Smith, W. Alan... ..	323
10.	Watson-Brown, M. ...	260
Average per bird, 86.84 to date,		

A Strange Coincidence

It began when two former patients of Terry Roden's (whose name was Learner) and strangely enough were school-teachers, invited Terry and myself to spend a week end with them at their new house in Wraxall, on the Isle of Wight, offering to meet us if we would let them know what time the boat was expected to arrive. But Terry, with that self-confidence so well known to St. Dunstan's bridge players, and so much admired assured them we could manage quite well if they would send instructions how to get to "Four Winds"—the name of the house. The instructions duly arrived, and one glorious Saturday found us boarding a bus en route for Wraxall, the conductor telling us the best place to get down. It was then our difficulties began. We went from one house to another, uncertain which to try. At last we decided we had struck the right one. We marched up the path to knock on the door which was opened and a very charming voice invited us to come in. But there was no move to enter, only an uneasy silence. Then I heard Terry's apologetic voice saying "I am very sorry, but we're looking for 'Four Winds.'" "Oh," replied the lady, "that's the next house up the hill. I also am sorry. I thought it was my boy who is in the Air Force and whom I expect home for the week-end. He likes to have a game with me when he comes home; you see, I am blind."

We apologised once again, turned to walk slowly down the path, our thoughts marvelling at the vagaries of chance.

T. ROGERS.

Brighton.

Looking Back

It is often said that it is a good thing we do not know or foresee what the future of life is to be, most of us have ambitions in life, only to be disillusioned by the adversities which may follow. I was totally blinded during the third battle of Ypres in 1917, and here are a few incidents before I lost my sight. I was a postman at the Paddington District Office, and it was my duty to deliver at the house in Bayswater Hill which Sir Arthur Pearson had taken, to house the first blinded men of the great war. I would hand in the correspondence and then look back at the house, and wonder what it was like inside with those blinded

men. One of our first St. Dunstaners at that house was Mr. Selby, and later on I sat next to him at our first Canterbury reunion. I had another postman colleague who used to deliver at Bayswater Hill. He had two little lads and I often used to see them. One of these lads later on was in the third bed from mine in No. 8 ward at the Bungalow, Regent's Park; he was Harry Ollington. It was often my duty to be detailed to check the blind literature when the night mail was being sorted. The large volumes came from the National Library for the Blind in Queen's Road, Bayswater. Every book I put on the scales and any overweight were surcharged. We occasionally opened some of the books, but it was impossible for us to understand the braille embossing, but when in St. Dunstan's I learned to read and write braille and passed my test. These are just a few incidents prior to my blindness, and there are quite a number of others I could relate. Finally, my son is a postal clerk at the Dover Head Office, and on many occasions when he has been at the counter he has paid me my disability pension. Son pays father, and I wonder if there are any other St. Dunstaners who can say the same.

Dover.

ALFRED BENNETT.

These two articles win a prize of one guinea each.

Births

BELL.—On May 7th, to the wife of David Bell, of Edinburgh, a son.

HOYLE.—On May 3rd, to the wife of C. Hoyle, of Oldham, a daughter—Jeanne.

LEATHERIDGE.—On March 25th, to the wife of W. Leatheridge, of Oldham, a son—Brian John.

PETTY.—On May 23rd, to the wife of H. Petty, of Leeds, a daughter.

Marriages

TURNER—GOODALL.—On April 9th, at Rottingdean, Ivor Reginald Turner, to Miss Margaret Hope Goodall. Robert Owen was best man.

POOLE—GASKELL.—On May 10th, G. Poole, of Warrington, to Miss Gaskell.

PRESTON—PEPALL.—On May 7th, at Holy Trinity, Brompton Road, Geoffrey Arthur Preston, to Miss Isobel LeRoy Pepall, M.B.E.

“ In Memory ”

Victor Lavalie, 5th Canadians

We have heard with deep regret of the death of our Canadian St. Dunstaner, Victor Lavalie, of Manitoba. Wounded at Hill 60, in April, 1916, he was with us from June until October of that year, when he was trained in bag-making and a little poultry farming. He returned to Canada and there has only been occasional news of him during the past few years through Colonel Edwin Baker who, of course, was always in close touch with him.

He leaves a wife and child to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

A.C.2 W. Henry Bossom, Royal Air Force

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Bossom, of Crewe, who served with the Royal Air Force from March, 1913, until September, 1921. He did not, however, come to us until 1938, when his health was already poor, and prevented him from doing more than light occupational work. For a considerable time he had been going downhill and in December of last year he spent a month with us at Brighton, but he was a very sick man and he passed away at his home on March 25th after a short period in hospital.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and children.

Private Alexander Lawlor, 4th King's Liverpool Regiment.

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of A. Lawlor, of Liverpool.

Previously in the Merchant Navy, he enlisted in the King's Liverpool Regiment in April, 1915. He was wounded in France, in August, 1916, when he lost his sight and his right arm. He was not able to undertake much training on account of his health. He had a little shop for a time, but for many years he was obliged to lead a quiet life. In late years he was in and out of hospital, spending long periods in our Homes. He went home from West House for Christmas, and was not very fit on his return. He was admitted to the Sussex County Hospital and he died there on April 17th. He was buried in the family grave, the coffin being draped with the Union Jack. A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the many flowers.

We extend our deep sympathy to his brothers and sisters in their great loss.

Private John Samuel Steeley, 1/4 East Yorkshire Regiment

We record with deepest regret the death of J. S. Steeley, of Hull. Enlisting in August, 1914, he was wounded the following year, receiving severe head and shoulder wounds, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1932, and then, owing to his very poor health, he could not take heavy training. He carried on with basket work, etc., but for some time he had been a very sick man. Early this year he visited West House; on his return home an operation was performed, but he died in his local hospital on April 23rd.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was placed at the foot of the coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, and many of his old friends attended the service at the cemetery chapel.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and child.

A.C.1 Jack Bell, Royal Air Force

With deepest regret we record the death of one of our trainees, Jack Bell, who died in the Atkinson-Morley Hospital, Wimbledon, on May 4th.

His sight broke down after his service in West Africa, and he was discharged from the Royal Air Force in September, 1945. He came to St. Dunstan's as a trainee on February 5th of this year.

The funeral took place on May 9th at Ovingdean Chapel and the interment was at Brighton Cemetery. Jack had no relatives.

J. P. Taylor, Canadian Forces

We have also heard from the daughter of J. T. Taylor, of Canada, that her father passed away last year. We have little news of this St. Dunstaner, as he was only in our care for a very short time.

Our sympathy is extended to his daughter in her loss.

Private F. S. Wardle, Australian Imperial Forces

We record with deep regret the death of F. S. Wardle, of Cudworth, near Barnsley, which occurred suddenly at his home on March 17th.

He was one of our earliest St. Dunstaners, coming under our notice in October, 1915, but he never trained with us. He had always been interested in poultry keeping and greenhouse work, at which he was most successful.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

We extend our deep sympathy to his relatives.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 340—VOLUME XXX [NEW SERIES]

JUNE, 1947

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

BRITISH LEGION AND ST. DUNSTAN'S

AT the Annual Conference of the British Legion held at the Isle of Man at Whitsuntide, Sir Ian Fraser was elected National President of the British Legion by a vote of 905 to 328 cast for the other candidate, Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Tovey. Sir Ian was Vice-Chairman of the Legion for the three years, 1943-46, and although it is the practice of the Vice-Chairman to go forward to the Chair, and Sir Ian was asked to do so, he refused on the ground that the Chairmanship was a post involving day to day administration for which he had not the time nor the inclination. The Presidency on the other hand is not a whole time post. He is at the same time a figurehead and responsible for contacts at the highest level and public representation of the Legion's point of view. St. Dunstaners will rejoice that their Chairman should be elected by so overwhelming a majority to such a post of responsibility and honour and we feel that other disabled ex-servicemen will join us also in testifying that the appointment brings prestige to the whole disabled community.

In a message to St. Dunstan's REVIEW, Sir Ian writes :

"It is a great honour to me to have been elected President of the British Legion. Sir Arthur Pearson founded St. Dunstan's in 1915 and its present constitution was formalised in 1923 when Earl Haig, who had recently founded the British Legion, and was then its President, was one of our first signatories. Ever since then, St. Dunstan's has worked in harmony with the British Legion. I have done all I could to promote good relations with the Legion. It was in 1928, that out of a conversation with Sir Brunel Cohen, then Honorary Treasurer of the Legion, an agreement to work together arose. In later years, co-operation has extended to many fields, including representations to government. From my place in the House of Commons, I have tried to help the Legion and the Legion have helped us to obtain many concessions from various governments of all parties. This working together was cemented by my taking office as Vice-Chairman. I hope it will be further confirmed now.

"I should like to thank all my St. Dunstan's friends who have written to me expressing their pleasure at my election. My first love was for St. Dunstan's and it still is and my Legion friends would wish it so. I will do my best to serve all ex-service men, especially the disabled, and in this task I shall, I know, have the help of all St. Dunstaners. I hope St. Dunstaners who do not already belong, will join their local branch of the Legion. They will find companionship, friendship and many advantages by so doing; they will also be able to contribute much to the Legion itself. Some have become members of committees, and officials; many more could do so and I hope they will. I consider it very important that all ex-service men and women should join the Legion so that we can speak with one voice.

"It may be that in the next few years our highest demands may have to be modified, because I think great difficulties are ahead of our country and it is certain that if all the just demands of all sections of the community were met without a great increase in production, we should gallop into ruinous inflation. Inflation threatens all, but especially those who live on a fixed income or a pension; we must, therefore, see to it that the legitimate claims of ex-service men and women are kept to the forefront in Parliament and the country.

"The British Legion and St. Dunstan's are closely connected; they have much in common. While retaining its separate identity and separate administration, St. Dunstan's will work in ever closer harmony with its big brother, the British Legion."

IAN FRASER.

His Majesty's Birthday

The following telegram was sent to H.M. the King on June 12th:

"On behalf of men and women blinded on war service, I send loyal greetings to Your Majesty on the occasion of your birthday.

IAN FRASER, ST. DUNSTAN'S."

Sir Ian has received a reply from His Majesty as follows:—

"I thank you sincerely for your kind message, which I have received with much pleasure.

GEORGE, R.I."

St. Dunstaner Wins His Own Cup

Congratulations to Arthur Morgan, York's war-blinded ex-Commando, who was the first man home in the six-mile Victory Walk, organised by the York Clarence Club in aid of St. Dunstan's. He completed the course in grand style in 57 minutes 37 seconds, starting with a handicap of fifteen minutes, and he was escorted throughout the race by his brother-in-law on a cycle. As a result of his victory, he won a cash prize, an electric clock, and the Morgan Cup, which he himself offered for competition for this annual walk last year.

Miss Phyllis Pease, Miss Hester Pease, and C. Durkin, of York, were waiting to congratulate him at the finish.

This is our St. Dunstaner's second win in road walks, in which he has been competing for seventeen years, his last victory being gained before the war. He is 34 and was blinded at the Anzio beach-head.

To Bridge and Chess Players

Will all men who would be interested in a Bridge Week or a Chess Week, to be held at West House, Brighton, write to Mr. A. Mackay, Welfare Superintendent, giving their views,

Correspondent Wanted

A Frenchman who lost his sight near Verdun, in April, 1915, would very much like to correspond in braille, grade number two, with a St. Dunstaner. He has also asked for our REVIEW in braille, but unfortunately this is not possible and it occurs to us that it would be a very nice gesture if a St. Dunstaner would care to forward his braille copy of the REVIEW to the Frenchman when he has finished with it. The Editor will be glad to give his address to any St. Dunstaner who may be interested.

Braille to German Blind

On May 12th, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he would make a statement as to the transmission of braille literature and braille letters for the blind between Britain and Germany.

Mr. McNeil replied: "Quadripartite agreement has now been secured so that from May 15th, braille may be included in the international mail services to and from Germany. The maximum weight for braille correspondence will be 1lb., and for braille books and other literature, 11lbs."

St. Dunstaners who wish to correspond with German blinded soldiers will be interested to hear of this agreement.

To Braille Readers

As the name of the "European Review" has been altered to "Braille Review," will St. Dunstaners when writing about ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW in braille make a special point of saying "St. Dunstan's Review," to avoid confusion.

★ ★ ★

Those St. Dunstaners who replied to the Editor's invitation some time ago to correspond with a young blinded Dutch ex-Serviceman, Peter Janssen, will hear with deep regret that he died last month.

Reunions

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake was made at No. 12 Park Crescent on Tuesday, June 3rd, by St. Dunstaners Des Coupe, Jack Kirkby and John Harris. Matron Walker, Corporal Major Dawkins, Mrs. Giorgi, and a number of St. Dunstaners and members of the staff were present.

This year's total was not quite so high as last year. Although tickets numbering up to 2,569 were issued, the number actually sold numbered twenty less, in view of the fact that Nos. 1681 to 1690 and 2181 to 2190 were omitted by the printers from the numbered tickets. The total number sold, therefore, was 2,549, producing £318 12s. 6d. After deducting £10 12s. 6d. to cover the cost of printing and postage, a balance of £308 was left to be divided in accordance with the printed rules. The result was :

1. Pearl Diver £154 0 0
A. Stevens, Winnersh (2121).
2. Migoli £61 12 0
T. Nash, Ovingdean (1940).
3. Sayajirao £30 16 0
T. North, Cannock (2160).

Twelve horses "also ran," and the holders of these tickets received £5 2s. 8d. each. The lucky ones were:—

BHISHMA	R. E. Hill, Buxton ...	2396
BLUE CORAL	T. Batt, Bath ...	1314
CADIR	D. J. M. Stephens, Ferryside ...	306
CASTLE STREET	H. Pugh, Finchley ...	1088
FIREMASTER	T. J. Warren, Slough	368
GRAND WEATHER	F. J. Mears, Beeston	1494
MERRY QUIP	T. Rogers, Ovingdean	1898
PARISIEN	T. Gregory, Worting, Basingstoke	1481
RICHARD THE THIRD	J. H. Martin, Bloxwich ...	1649
SARAVAN	F. A. Rhodes, Harlesden ...	1012
TITE STREET	C. A. Luker, S.W.18	656
TUDOR MINSTREL	P. Sainty, Woodford Bridge ...	1798

Those drawing horses which did not start were :—

A. Hobson, Hastings, COMBAT	1354
C. Wilshaw, Worthing, MIGHTY	
MAHRATTA	1692
G. Hewett, Liverpool, BLUE TRAIN	189
T. Read, Ovingdean, drew THE FIELD	1891

The month's Reunions began with a meeting at Bristol on May 13th, where Colonel P. G. J. Gueterbock, Chairman, Gloucestershire Territorial Association, took the chair, and Mr. S. Jacobs, Chairman of the Bristol Branch of the British Legion, was among the guests.

Men in the West Country held their Reunion at Plymouth on May 15th, where the guests included the Deputy Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Mr. W. H. J. Priest, Rear Admiral R. B. Hosking, Devon County Chairman of the British Legion, and Major R. W. Fennamore, Secretary of the Plymouth Branch of the Legion. Swansea's meeting on May 17th was presided over by Sir Ian Fraser, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, and other guests included the Mayor of Swansea, Alderman Harry Davies, Mr. S. G. Johns, Chairman, and Mr. W. F. Francis, Secretary of the Swansea Branch of the British Legion. Lord Luke presided over the Bedford Reunion on May 29th, where the guests were welcomed by the Deputy Mayor, Alderman A. Braggins. The Mayor of Bournemouth, Councillor J. W. Moore, presided at Bournemouth on June 3rd, where Brigadier Eden, Vice-Chairman of the Hampshire County Committee of the British Legion, also spoke. The Portsmouth meeting was presided over by the Lord Mayor, Councillor R. J. Winnicott.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," June, 1917:

On May 11th, the subject for debate was "Ought the blind to go about alone, and if so, how should they obtain help in case of need?"

Sir Arthur Pearson opened the discussion in a breezy speech in which the argument was that the blind should go about alone and take their knocks, and thus gain caution and experience. Mr. Cairns made a greatly appreciated point in declaring that half the assistance that the blind got could be dispensed with and that it was the fair sex that was a little to blame. Mr. McDougall argued that it takes a blind man too long to get about by himself and that time could be saved by having a guide, Mr. Hyde Thomson was in favour of training, pointing out that "the more waist, the less speed." Sir Arthur wound up the discussion by pointing out that "if you don't try you'll never succeed."

Ovingdean Notes

This month has indeed been a good one, and the excellent weather has been enjoyed by one and all. We have been pleased to welcome some old St. Dunstaners who have taken advantage of this fine period.

We were honoured to include amongst our visitors to Ovingdean, Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Cordingly, who is the new Controller of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, and Dr. Moham Lal, Chief Medical Officer of the Aligarh Eye Hospital, India, who made a tour of the building, watching trainees at their work with great interest. Dr. Lal is an eminent Indian ophthalmic surgeon who is in this country to study the prevention of blindness. Sir Hubert and Lady Huddleston, in England from the Sudan, paid a further visit to Ovingdean to see our Sudanese trainee and his brother who acts as his attendant.

The "14-18" Club are having a series of interesting lectures. House Steward Jennings gave the first talk on Naval Gunnery and Radar Control, our St. Dunstaner, G. W. Killingbeck, on Gardening, and Joe Walsh, on Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Lieut. Col. Davys, O.B.E., B.A., a lecturer with the India-Burma Association, and an authority on Indian affairs, visited Ovingdean on May 21st to give an interesting talk on India and her problems. His clear and simple exposition of so complicated a subject delighted his listeners. Col. Davys has promised to pay a return visit in the autumn.

The Annual Sports Meeting this year will be held on the Sports Field of Roedean Girls' School, Brighton, on July 19th, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Ovingdean Darts Club is still doing well having had five fixtures during the present term, with the following results. Three wins, 8—1, 9—2, 9—0; one game lost, 8—9; and one cancelled. One of our regular players, George Shed, has recently left training and we miss his strong support very much, but with him go our very best wishes and good luck in his new adventures.

On Saturday, May 18th, escorts gave a dance for the Trainees at the Pelham Street School Hall. The dance was preceded by an excellent tea and our old friend, Mr. Cliff Rawson, from the Dome, Brighton, acted as compere for the dance which everyone voted to be one of the best held since St. Dunstan's returned to Brighton.

On Wednesday, May 21st, a party of trainees went to the Empire Day Ball at the Regent, Brighton, while another party went to a dance at the Training College, Eastern Terrace—a very amusing evening with plenty of novelty dances, etc.

On Thursday, May 29th, the Resident Director of the Dudley Hotel, Mr. King, and the Manager, Mr. Boast, once again gave us the most delightful dance at the Hotel. The kindness and hospitality of these good people and the delicious refreshments provided will remain in our memories for a very long time.

The number of trainees is gradually decreasing now and in consequence we are also losing some of the staff. We offer them our very best wishes in their new spheres of occupation.

Footnote from the Braille Room

Braille teacher, telling her pupil how badly he had done during his lesson, is a little taken aback when the pupil replies, "I may read braille badly, but I'm very good on the spaces!"

Test Results

Preliminary.—R. French, D. Grimes.

Writing.—C. Campkin, J. Gannon, A. D. Moore.

Typing.—W. Carthy, A. Puttnam, A. Relf, H. Frost, L. Hoult, A. Trill.

Avenue Road

Typing.—G. Merriman.

Placements

M. Golding, of Kentish Town, is taking over a tobacco and confectionery business at East Greenwich; R. L. Page, Bromley, takes over a similar business at Hove.

Blind Man's Buff

Not childhood's game
But road to fame
War-blinded tread.
Whose spirit bright
Makes darkness light—
Leader though led—
He wins the fight
And conquers night
Who uses head.
Though things be tough
With vision keen
He breasts Life's stream
And calls Fate's bluff

Bristol.

A. B. HILL.

Brighton Notes

Warm sunny days arrived at last with the coming of May and so we at West House have been making the most of the fine weather and picnics have been the order of the day. At last blessed with our own 'bus, we have been out and away as often as petrol would permit! A favourite jaunt has been to Poynings and the Devils Dyke—with picnic tea!

There has also been plenty in the way of entertainment in the House and we started the month off well with a return visit from the Florence Moore Players who gave us three original plays which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Close upon that came an invitation to visit Ovingdean to listen to Ted Heath and his Band. The swing fans were in their element that day.

West House came back into the lime-light with a visit from Stewart Macpherson who entertained us, with the aid of Matron Pain, Matron Ouseley, Tiny Fleming and Douglas Grimes, with his "Twenty Questions Quiz." The team were so remarkably successful on the first subject that we suspected they had heard it before, getting far enough away from the platform. However, they kept up the standard practically throughout, so we gave them the benefit of the doubt! On that occasion, too, Lady Pearson, the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton and Mrs. Dacre were amongst our guests. It was a grand afternoon and we are looking forward to Stewart Macpherson's next visit.

Something new to West House was the visit of a coloured troop, "The Carolina Coons" and they gave us a merry evening of minstrel songs, piano duets and jokes. They came to us through our friend Mr. Bert Martin and will, we hope, be back again later in the year.

On the 18th, we enjoyed a play reading by Ovingdean Staff—aided and abetted by Commandant, who was appearing by kind permission of West House!

There was a taste of Canadian hospitality for those who went along to the Regent Dance Hall for the Canadian Empire Ball. They were given a warm welcome by the Canadian ex-servicemen and enjoyed an excellent floor show, compèred by Gerry Wilmot.

May 22nd saw a party of fourteen set off for the evening in London; the occasion

was a dance at Simpsons Services Club, Piccadilly, which we had been looking forward to for some time. For those left behind there was another picnic outing.

Our Whitsuntide activities got off to a flying start with a Domino and Whist Drive in the afternoon with the local St. Dunstaners and friends joining us and staying to tea. In the evening, there was a special party in the Lounge and many of our visitors went away after the week-end, the proud winners of a prize.

On Sunday evening, Commandant presented his "Twenty Questions." The guessing team included House Steward Mason, Orderly Wright, Sister Goodman and Miss Holland.

Whit Monday was quite a day, too! Off we went to the Devils Dyke, Poynings and Arundel for a picnic and Treasure Hunt, everyone armed with a list of the things they must bring safely home to West House in order to get a prize. The little insects in matchboxes proved tiresome little fellows, but they were at long last, conquered—but our efforts to secure "the hair from a cow's tail" we beg to leave to your imagination. Tiny Northcott and Jack Caswell tied for the prize and we gave many a pat-on-the-back to the exhausted runners up! However, we had all gained our second wind in time to thoroughly enjoy a grand Dance when we returned to Brighton at 8.30. A lovely evening with plenty of ice cream was the perfect finish to a wonderful day.

Sunbathing and swimming attracted many of us during the last few days of the month which terminated with an invitation to the Dudley Hotel for dancing (and excellent refreshments) and so we faced June, many of us with red and shiny faces, others, more successful, just the right shade of golden brown, but all of us in the best of holiday spirits.

On the Air

Jim Banks, who works on a machine at the Hoover factory, Perivale, was interviewed by Richard Dimpleby in "Down Your Way," on Sunday, June 8th, when he visited the Ealing district.

★ ★ ★

A. B. Hill, of Bristol, and W. Burgin, of Southwick, receive a guinea for their contributions this month.

Letters to the Editor

From the General Editor, National Institute for the Blind.

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR SIR,

Duplication in Braille Magazines

Referring to the note in your May issue under this heading, may I point out that the National Institute has always done its utmost to avoid duplication in Braille magazines, and will continue to do so. The difficulty is when two magazines, published in different quarters, go to press simultaneously and cannot await each other. Nevertheless, I can assure you that duplication is very rare.

Yours very truly, J. DE LA MARE ROWLEY.

DEAR EDITOR,

For some time I have given serious thought to the possibility of a Branch of the British Legion being formed within St. Dunstan's, and after our Chairman's overwhelming success at the recent Annual Conference of the British Legion, I feel it would be a fitting tribute to his election as President, to form a branch at Brighton and possibly, Blackpool. It could easily be established and in no way interfere with Legionaires in their present branches as there is nothing in the Charter to stop an ex-service man or woman from joining as many branches as they desire. I believe it would be a great asset to St. Dunstan's and the British Legion alike, besides it being a worthy tribute to our Chairman.

Yours sincerely,

Leeds.

E. RUSSELL.

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR SIR,

I would like to congratulate Sir Ian on being elected President of the British Legion. This is a great honour and he is following in the footsteps of some great men, Haig, Jellicoe, etc. Although he is a "grand-dad" he is the youngest President the Legion has ever had; however, I hope he will worry the "hide" off John Hynd, the Minister of Pensions. Good luck, Sir Ian.

Secondly, I would like to thank "Daddy Anon." for the letter about St. Dunstan's Old Boys—I mean former pupils—but I do not think anonymous letters should be published as the REVIEW is a family affair. I am sure that the young men of the

Second War are just as good and will be calm and stable when they reach our age and I am sure that if "Daddy" was in St. Dunstan's in '17-'18 he would have had a different story to tell. My advice to the youngsters is, enjoy yourself while you are young, as it is better to be a "has been" than a "never was." The road of darkness is what you make it, and remember you are a hell of a long time dead.

I hope I shall have the pleasure of meeting some of the youngsters in camp in July, as I was one of the youngsters of the '14-'18 war.

Yours sincerely, JOCK MACFARLANE.

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR SIR,

This is a true story.

I received this morning my new plastic eyes. I happened to mention this to a patient of mine, an old lady of seventy or over, as she seemed rather interested. She said: "Can you see through them?" Of course, I replied "Yes."

Yours sincerely,

Crewe.

ROBERT GIFFIN.

What About Next Winter?

We shall all remember this winter and its fuel troubles, and we should do what we can to avoid further trouble in the coming winter.

I intend to get all the coal my merchant will allow me to have, and as it arrives I shall only put in the bin the best, keeping on one side the slack and fine powder you get with the coal at times. I find that this slack or fine coal damped and mixed with cinders comes in useful for damping the fire down if you go out, and saves your good coal from burning away quickly.

I have also made a six foot square at the back of the house, on which I intend to store any unrationed fuel I can get. In my case I hope to get a few cwts. of coke and brickettes; these brickettes are made from coal dust, and about the size of half a brick, and if one is put on the fire with a few cinders or slack, they keep the fire in for hours.

Unrationed fuel wants getting in stock during the summer or autumn; it is not to be had during the winter months, so get your rationed fuel when it is due to you or you will not get it at all.

Southwick, Sussex.

W. BURGIN.

Blackpool Notes

I guess there will be many who are wondering about the "doings" of the Blackpool Home, but we are enjoying ourselves in our own quiet way, and have our thrills and laughs from time to time.

On February 28th, a long time ago, but very vivid in our memory, we left the Home by special bus to partake of an enjoyable dinner at Hill's Restaurant, as guests of the British Legion. It was well for us that the Legion also sent us home by bus, for it started to snow early in the evening, and by the time we were ready for our homeward trip, there was a terrible blizzard and drifts were four and five feet deep at the street corners.

Our next "Gala do" was the Easter Monday Party in the Lounge with spot dances, grand marches, and rollicking dances, with refreshments and ices. The fun waxed fast and furious to a late hour.

On Whit Monday we had another Party, followed a few nights later by a Thunder Party at 4.30 in the morning. Everyone was awake owing to the severity of the storm. Tea and biscuits at 4.30 a.m. was some treat and although there have been several storms since, to the great disappointment of the troops they have all been in the daytime.

On Queen Mary's birthday, we too celebrated; we were given twenty "cigs." and a packet of razor blades, had a gradely lunch and tea, followed by a dance in the evening, when we all drank to Her Majesty's health.

The Managers of the Grand and the Palace still continue to ask us to a show weekly, and several of the Amateur Societies invite us to see their performances as did the Neptune Players on May 30th, when a large party escorted by Matron and some of the V.A.D.'s enjoyed Priestley's "Laburnum Grove."

It is with sincere regrets that we lose our night orderly, Tom Chambers, who has retired after many years of willing service. The men in residence and the staff made him a presentation on the eve of his departure as a token of their esteem.

RODNEY.

Grandfathers

H. Wordsworth, Gainsborough, a grand-daughter—Carol; F. Warin, Fencehouses, a grand-daughter; H. D. S. Wood, Rugby; H. A. Davies, Sandbach.

Young St. Dunstaners

Stanley Mussell is a sergeant in Movement Control with the B.O.A.L.

Pat Jarman, who is articled to the Clerk to Llandudno Urban District Council, has passed the Trust Accounts portion of the Law Society's examination.

Donald Wardle (Northampton), is now a Sergeant Educational Instructor, R.A.O.C. He is 19. His brother Colin is a First Class Warrant Officer, R.E.M.E., at 21.

The son of Mrs. Plunkett, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, has sailed for Australia.

The son of R. Edwards, of Denbigh, has been mentioned in despatches.

Marriages

On May 8th, in Italy, Celia Coates, New Longton.

On May 31st, L.A.C.W. Vera Cookson, Kendal, to Cpl. Collins, R.A.F.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, Nottingham, May 20th and to Mr. and Mrs. W. Ellinson, Warwick, July 22nd.

Births

HARRISON.—On June 4th, to the wife of T. Harrison, of Sheffield, a daughter.

HIGGS.—On May 22nd, to the wife of E. Higgs, of Bradford, a daughter—Alwyn May.

HIGGINS.—On May 27th, to the wife of T. W. Higgins, of Cricklewood, a son—Anthony John.

JAKINS.—On May 11th, to the wife of G. H. Jakins, of Rugby, a daughter—Hilda Mary.

MCCLARNON.—On May 2nd, to the wife of E. McClarnon, of Blackpool, a daughter—Marjorie Ann.

MORRIS.—On May 18th, to the wife of G. W. Morris, of Southbourne, a son—Brian David.

NOLDE.—On May 2nd, to the wife of F. S. Nolde, of Harringay, a son—Norman Arthur.

REYNOLDS.—On May 28th, to the wife of A. Reynolds, of Shrewsbury, a daughter—Frances Mary.

WATKINSON.—On May 26th, to the wife of F. Watkinson, of Hessle, a daughter.

WOOD.—On May 21st, to the wife of Gerald Wood, of Northampton, a daughter—Merle Rose.

“ In Memory ”

Private Ernest Ling, *Labour Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of E. Ling, of Brampton, Chesterfield.

After service with the Labour Corps from 1917 to 1919, he came to us in October, 1921, with his sight severely damaged as the result of his experiences. He learned boot repairing and clogging and, later, mat-making. He carried on with mat-making for a long time, but for many years his health had been steadily growing worse. In September of last year he was admitted to West House and he passed away there on May 8th after much suffering.

He was buried near his comrades in Brighton Cemetery.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife in her loss.

Private Harry Bates, *King's Shropshire Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of H. Bates, of Oakengates, Salop.

Enlisting in March, 1915, he was wounded at Hooze in September, 1915, but he did not come to us until April, 1918, where he trained in boot repairing. He continued at this for several years, then going on to netting only. His health was not good but his last illness was very short; he passed away in hospital on May 25th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Bates, who herself has recently had a severe illness, and her large family.

Private Arthur Edward Taylor, *2nd East Lancs. Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death on May 22nd, of A. E. Taylor, of Grantham.

He was wounded at Ypres in October, 1917, after eighteen months' service and he came to St. Dunstan's almost immediately. He, too, trained as a boot repairer and mat maker, but after a time was able only to do work for the netting room. Until the end of his life he was a staunch member of the Methodist Church; he had a fine baritone voice.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral.

We extend our deep sympathy to his wife in her loss.

Private John Percival Ireland, *New Zealand Expeditionary Force*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of J. P. Ireland, of Waikato, New Zealand, which occurred on May 28th, 1946.

Enlisting in May, 1917, he was wounded at Cambrai. He trained at St. Dunstan's as a poultry farmer from February, 1919, until February, 1920, when he returned to New Zealand. Since then we have kept in touch with him although there was very little news.

Charles Montague Johnston, *New Zealand Expeditionary Force*

We have also heard with deep regret of the death of another of our New Zealand St. Dunstaners, C. M. Johnston, of Christchurch.

Wounded in France in October, 1918, he came to us the following year and was trained as a poultry farmer, and he returned to New Zealand in 1920.

He had hoped to return to England when things were more settled, but he passed away on September 25th, 1946.

Marriages

ALBERTELLA—BROWN.—On December 21st, M. H. Albertella, recently of Coulsdon, and now of Hastings, to Mrs. L. Brown.

BUTT—WESCOMBE.—On May 17th, W. F. Butt, of Worthing, to Mrs. L. Wescombe, at a double wedding. Mrs. Wescombe's son was married at the same service. St. Dunstaners formed a guard of honour.

CHITTY—PEADON.—On May 25th, W. V. Chitty, of Peckham, to Miss Mary Peadon.

DOUGLAS—MORRIS.—On May 10th, J. L. Douglas, of Barking, to Miss Marion Morris.

HERBERT—WALKER.—On June 6th, Reuben Herbert, to Miss Joyce Walker.

Deaths

We extend our deep sympathy this month to the following:—

KING.—To Freddie King, of Derby, whose father passed away on June 6th.

MITCHELL.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Mitchell, of Leith, whose daughter, Jemima, has passed away after a long illness.

REED.—To Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Reed, of Hertford, whose baby did not survive its birth.

WILTSHIRE.—To A. J. Wiltshire, of Upper Norwood, whose mother died on June 1st.

★ ★ ★

Personal

G. B. Reed, of Hertford, writes: "On behalf of my wife and myself I desire to thank all my friends at St. Dunstan's for their kindness, consideration and sympathy shown to us both during our recent shock and disappointment, and to say how much we appreciate their thought."

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

“LET us now praise famous men.” So says an ancient writer in the Apocrypha. All down the ages we have praised famous men, in national affairs, in the arts, in science, and in the leadership of commerce and labour. In our own organisation of St. Dunstan's we praise the outstanding ones who do unusually well or undertake new, interesting and adventurous things. And it is well that we should, for they blaze new trails for all of us.

But let us not forget to praise also the ordinary fellow who is just as blind, just as courageous, just as hard working. It is equally worthy of praise, and perhaps worthier still, to learn to read with your fingers if your fingers are stiff and insensitive, and if you never were much good at reading anyway. The work of the world is not all dramatic and interesting, and it is not everybody who can be a professional or a business man, or secure a higher appointment. The majority follow a less exacting but from some points of view no less skilled occupation. Skill is of many kinds, and what matters is not so much the nature of it as that it is developed to the highest pitch.

As the summer term draws to an end and larger numbers than usual are leaving the Training Centre, I think of those who have done well in every study, and congratulate them and wish them good luck in their future lives; their future is assured, but I think also of those who have found it particularly hard to adjust themselves to blindness, who are going out into the world not quite so sure of themselves, to face its many difficulties, and I congratulate them too on the tremendous progress they have made in solving their personal problems. I think of the saints and also of the sinners; St. Dunstan's includes all and all have enriched St. Dunstan's by their life and experience. The corporate life of St. Dunstan's and the Spirit of St. Dunstan's are the pride of the activities of all. Each one of us is his brother's keeper and we are a true brotherhood.

Often I think of the older St. Dunstaners, whose names and homes and occupations, whose wives and families, whose virtues and failings are so well known to me, as mine are to them. I think of the many things we have done together over thirty years, and I look forward to the future, when the passage of time has afforded me the opportunity of a similar intermittent knowledge of, and friendship with, increasing numbers of the men and women of the second war. This feeling will, I think, be shared by all the members of our world-wide St. Dunstan's family.

Lady Fraser and I are going this summer for a brief visit to the United States, where I have been asked to address the National Convention of the American Legion, and to Canada, where I shall meet the Dominion Council of the Canadian Legion, and also many

blinded sailors, soldiers and airmen of both wars. In addition to discussing views and experiences on matters relating to the welfare of blinded men and women in our two countries, I shall of course exchange many messages of goodwill between members of our organisation in the Old Country and our friends in Canada.

IAN FRASER.

Burglary at Park Crescent

As many St. Dunstaners will have read in the Press, thieves broke into our Headquarters in Park Crescent during the night of July 8th, opened a safe, and stole £500.

The following letter appeared in the *Daily Mirror* on July 10th:—

Open Letter to Thief who Robbed the Blind

DEAR SIR,

When you decided to break into No. 10 Park Crescent, Regent's Park, you must have known it was the headquarters of that wonderful war charity for blinded Servicemen. The name is over the door, with its symbol, a burning torch.

You took £500 in notes and postal orders from the safe in the office. This money—it was for administrative purposes—was subscribed by people anxious to help the blind.

As it happens, St. Dunstan's—knowing human nature—insured against theft, so they will not lose a lot.

But you could not have known this. At the hostels where blind people stay near the scene of your theft they were talking about you last night. "A very shabby trick" was their verdict.

Yours,
Daily Mirror Crime Reporter.

Mrs. Bates in England

Mrs. E. Chadwick Bates has arrived in this country on a visit from South Africa. She will be here for some weeks, probably until the beginning of October, and looks forward to meeting in brief many old friends.

Holiday Exchange

Would any St. Dunstaner living in the south like to exchange houses for a fortnight in August with F. Crabtree, 15 Hillcrest Avenue, Burniston Road, Scarborough?

★ ★ ★

W. Trott, of Birmingham, has just had a small piece of shrapnel taken from the ring finger of his right hand.

Canada's Grand Reunion

The first post-war Grand Reunion of Canadian blinded soldiers of both wars was held in Toronto from June 23rd to 28th. On the opening day Sir Ian Fraser sent a cable of good wishes from all St. Dunstaners at home.

Reunions

The month's Reunions began with Maidstone, on June 16th, where the Mayor, Councillor S. J. Lyle, welcomed the guests to the town, and Lieut.-Col. C. Gordon Larking, National Chairman of the British Legion, was also present. At Oxford, on the 19th, the Mayor, Councillor E. A. Smewin, brought the City's greetings to St. Dunstaners, and Mr. W. H. T. Mardon, Vice-Chairman of the Oxfordshire Branch, represented the British Legion.

The Leicester meeting was on June 21st, Brighton on the 26th, and Guildford on the 28th. The Mayor of Brighton had intended to welcome St. Dunstaners there but was unable to do so owing to the illness of the Mayoress. The British Legion was represented by Wing Commander T. C. Burchell, Chairman of the Sussex Council. July began with the Colchester meeting on the 1st, where the Chairman of the Essex County Committee of the British Legion, Brigadier H. G. Seth-Smith, welcomed the guests. The Norwich meeting was on the following day, and here Capt. S. J. Pusinelli, Chairman of the Norfolk County Branch, gave a welcome on behalf of the Legion.

Placements

T. J. Horne, of Kenley, takes over a tobacco, news and stationery business; G. Shed, of Hurstpierpoint, a tobacco, confectionery and stationery business; and W. Holmes, of Stonehouse, a tobacco and confectionery business. Ron Parsons, as a capstan operator, with Messrs. S. and J. R. Everett & Co., Ltd., Thornton Heath; E. Howarth, on leather work, with Messrs. J. & A. Hillman, Ltd., of Dudley.

Camp, 1947

The Camp at Lee-on-Solent proved itself to be, as usual, a great success. We spent a week as guests of the Navy, who did everything in their power to give us seven days of complete entertainment.

Friday and Saturday were spent in settling down and finding our way around, though many of us did our settling down in the Wet Canteen. Sunday morning was taken up by a service at Titchfield, this being given by the Rev. Spurway, and was followed by beer on the Vicarage Lawn. In the evening we were successfully entertained by the Chief Petty Officers. A grand time was had by all on Monday evening, when a Garden Party was given by the Wrens at Heathfield House. On Tuesday and Wednesday there were parties given by the P.O.s in 32 and 23 Mess respectively. A party was given by the Women's Section, British Legion, on Thursday, and on Friday a farewell party was given by the ratings. Various entertainments during the earlier part of the days throughout the week included a tour of H.M.S. *Illustrious*; here we were first given tea by the Officers in the Ward Room, and then taken through the hangars and around the flight deck. Afternoon tea parties were also given by the Wrens, who produced their home-made cakes, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Wrens at Edinburgh House also gave an afternoon party on Friday. Mrs. Spurway arranged morning sports and our grateful thanks go to her and her assistants who worked very hard to make the whole week a grand success.

Our greatest disappointment lay in the fact that only six of this war's boys attended the Camp, and being a young St. Dunstaner myself, I should like to express my heartfelt hope that next year's Camp will be supported by more of my younger colleagues.

It certainly is a grand life. B. BRIGHT.

Successes

At the recent Musical Festival at Hove, N. McLeod Steel, of Hove, was awarded three first prizes, three seconds and a third for his compositions; Beryl Sleigh came first in two mezzo-soprano classes, and Joe Walch won first place in the diction test for singing, any age or voice.

Grandfather

Sergt. Alan Nichols, of Hove.

Musical Instruments for the One-Handed

The Rev. G. L. Treglown has been searching for an instrument, apart from a mouth organ, which could be played by a one-handed person, and he was put in touch with the famous Dolmetsch family, which has done splendid work in constructing old-time musical instruments. This firm advised him to try a sixteenth century wood-wind instrument known as a whittle, or three-hole pipe, which is played with one hand—either hand. The instrument, he says, is quite a pleasant one, not unlike a recorder, and one which he has found fairly simple to play.

Sir Ian Fraser passed on the suggestion to our Music Department at Ovingdean, but its director has reported that with our trainees at least, orchestral instruments for the modern type of music are far more popular; in fact, our men are not interested in the old-fashioned instruments.

The melo-phone has been found a great success with handless men, and has even ousted the trombone. The melo-phone is similar to a French horn, and can be held with the body; it is light in weight, and only requires one hand to play, and fingers can even be missing on this hand. The instrument has a rich deep tone, similar to the French horn, and can be played either in a dance band or a straight orchestra.

For those St. Dunstaners who may be interested in the sixteenth century instrument, the address of the makers is Arnold Dolmetsch, Ltd., Jesses, Haslemere, Surrey; it costs three guineas.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," July, 1917:

"We have been very nearly in the wars ourselves at St. Dunstan's, what with day air raids, night alarms, and thunderstorms. We prefer the raids to the thunderstorms, because the former do us no harm, but we treat them with all good humour. All possible precautions have been taken by Captain Roberts against the raids, and everybody has his post and duty assigned; but we are all helpless against the deluges. Hill 60 was practically demolished by the storm on June 16th, and the floods in the cellars drove everybody upstairs. We got plenty of exercise running upstairs to escape the water and running downstairs to avoid the bombs."

Australian Dinner

Australian St. Dunstaners, resident in England, had a Reunion Dinner at the Cafe Royal on June 23rd, on the occasion of the visit of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Lynch from Australia, who were the guests of honour. Joe Lynch came to England at the invitation of Sir Ian Fraser to study St. Dunstan's from all angles, and to make a full report of its many activities to the Commonwealth Government.

This has been accomplished and, on June 23rd, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser entertained the High Commissioner for Australia, the Hon. J. A. Beasley, and Mrs. Beasley, the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Norman R. Mighell, C.M.G., and Mrs. Mighell, Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, Air Commodore and Mrs. Dacre, and a goodly company of Australian St. Dunstaners and their wives, to bid farewell to the visitors on the eve of their departure.

In an interesting speech introducing the High Commissioner, Sir Neville Pearson spoke of Australia as he had recently seen it, and instilled his hearers with a real desire to pack up their troubles in old England and set out with Mr. and Mrs. Lynch for that great country. Mr. Beasley, in thanking Sir Neville, spoke with deep feeling of Sir Arthur Pearson's magnificent work, and referred with enthusiasm to his recent visit to the Training Centre at Ovingdean. His audience was warmed to hear of the deep gratitude and admiration felt by Australian people for Britain when she stood alone, and that this sentiment was as lively to-day, with Australia ready and willing to give to the Mother Country succour and co-operation of every kind.

In the short interval which followed Mr. Beasley's speech, the company had the pleasure of listening to songs sung by Beryl Sleight, St. Dunstan's first woman soldier.

The second half of the evening was memorable for Sir Ian's personal reminiscences of how authority at St. Dunstan's endeavoured to contend with the high-spirited and often astounding escapades of the Australian contingent who came to St. Dunstan's as a result of the first World War.

In introducing the guest of honour, Mr. Mighell, Deputy High Commissioner, and until recently Chairman of the Repatriation Committee in Australia, left no doubt in the minds of his hearers of the esteem

felt for Joe Lynch among all ex-service organisations in Australia, or of the thoroughness with which he tackled every problem concerning the welfare of the ex-servicemen in the Commonwealth. Joe Lynch replied in an entertaining and deeply moving speech in which he reflected the affection of Australian St. Dunstaners of the old war for St. Dunstan's. Mr. Mighell said he favoured Australian blinded men coming to St. Dunstan's, and the High Commissioner, proposing a vote of thanks to Sir Ian Fraser at the end of the evening, confirmed that he would report in this sense to his Government.

Australian wine flowed in the drinking of the very good health of Mr. and Mrs. Lynch, and in the final toast, proposed by Mr. Beasley, to Sir Ian.

Others present at the party included Mr. Ewart Norris and Mrs. Norris, Commodore Harrison, Mr. A. Mackay, and St. Dunstaners G. Matrenin, L. Hoult, A. Cima, J. Jerome, A. J. Somervell, R. E. Jetson, J. S. Harrison, G. Merriman, W. J. Voss, and T. M. Fisher.

Birmingham St. Dunstan's Club

The Club is going strong, and very happy monthly meetings are held at British Red Cross Headquarters in Harborne. Miss Fairhead is a most able and energetic hon. secretary, and organised a wonderful outing to Worcester on Sunday, June 14th. Club members and their wives and Red Cross helpers met at one o'clock for tea and sandwiches. The Red Cross Voluntary Car Service turned up in full force, collecting men from outlying districts en route, and the party, numbering 104, started off. Miss Gough joined the party at Worcester, with Messrs. Dennick and Sheridan. Then up the river by steamer and back to high tea in Worcester. After tea the party walked down to the old familiar meeting ground, the Worcester R.C., to be met by Mr. Tysoe. Some went sculling, some took part in sports, Mr. Cooling taking charge. A leisurely return to Birmingham, picnicking on the way, ended a most successful day—and a start, I feel sure, to much bigger attendances at such meetings.

A. SPURWAY,

President, Birmingham St. Dunstan's Sports and Social Club.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,

— I read with interest, but not enthusiasm, Sir Ian's remarks in the House, as reported in the REVIEW, concerning the old tag, pensions.

I say without enthusiasm because the pension bogey is like the Loch Ness Monster, it appears at odd intervals, attracts interest and then fades away.

What are the facts? The basic pension was £2 weekly in the '20's—it is now £2 5s. in the '40's—this increase taking place during the "reign" of a Labour Government.

At this rate of acceleration we may confidently expect another 5s. in the '60's—or maybe, by that time, the cost of living may not be quite so important to the boys of the Regent's Park days.

Yours without enthusiasm,
Upper Walthamstow. H. M. STEEL.

To the Editor,

DEAR SIR,

May I be allowed to reply to E. Russell regarding the suggestion for the formation of a Branch of the British Legion within St. Dunstan's.

The Royal Charter makes necessary provisions for the establishment of a Branch, but also requires the necessary Officers and Committee. In view of the continuous movements, to and from West House, of very many St. Dunstaners, how would the stability of a Committee be achieved?

Secondly, should such a Committee be formed, it would be interesting to know the extent of their activities. As those members of the Legion who have served upon Committees know, the main work constitutes pension matters, employment and benevolence, all of which are administered by the various Departments of St. Dunstan's.

With regard to the social side, St. Dunstaners at West House are given every opportunity for entertainment, and, personally, I do not think the formation of any Branch within St. Dunstan's would serve any useful purpose.

I am not deprecating the British Legion, on the contrary I have always advocated that every St. Dunstaner should join the nearest Branch to his home.

Yours sincerely,
Great Bookham. W. A. MUGGERIDGE.

To the Editor,

DEAR SIR,

A few months ago, after I had cooked my week-end meat, I put it back in the still warm gas oven, the meat on the top shelf, and a tin filled with gravy on the bottom shelf, with the door slightly open.

I called my young puppy to give him some scraps and when I could not find him, I began to search. On going to have a look under the bath I saw his head sticking out of the gas oven. He was lying in the now empty gravy tin, having had a lovely warm meal, nice and comfortable in the warm oven, but, no doubt, bemoaning the fact that he just could not get at that juicy piece of meat above him.

Yours sincerely,

MARGARET POTTS.

Macclesfield.

Great Grandfathers Forward !

E. Greenwood, of Enfield, became a great-grandfather this year and wonders how many other St. Dunstaners of his generation are keeping pace with him, or have outstripped him in this respect.

Young St. Dunstaners

Raymond Jenkins, Porth, Glamorgan, has passed his B.Sc. examination with First Class Honours in Chemistry.

Andrew Young has passed his Anatomy Examination for the degrees of M.B. and Ch.B. at Glasgow University.

Martin Jordan, Bellerby, who is only 13, has been chosen for the village cricket team—composed of all men.

Paddy Coleman had two pictures hung in the recent exhibition at Northampton Art Gallery.

Braille

What would you like to do, my son,
What would you like to do?
I'd like to stand where the distant land
Is a smudge 'twixt the sea and the sky;
Where hills and caves in the great green
waves
White flecked with foam ride by.
And what are you going to do, my son,
What are you going to do?
I'm going to feel the tug of the wheel
And the shudder of plunging ships,
The morning star, and the harbour bar
In the touch of my finger tips.

G.M.

Blindness in Malaya

On the invitation of the Governments of the Malayan Union and Singapore, I have spent a short time here discussing with the newly-created Social Welfare Departments and with the Malayan Union Social Welfare Council, the question of setting up a blind welfare service, and the Government has now announced its intention to do so. It has decided to appoint Major D. R. Bridges as Adviser on Blind Welfare. He spent part of his boyhood in Malaya where his father was in the Medical Service. Major Bridges is a soldier by profession and was an officer of the 7th Gurkha Rifles. He was blinded in action in Burma early in 1945 and, after taking training in St. Dunstan's in England, has been on the staff of St. Dunstan's Training Centre in India.

Following the general rule throughout Asia, it is apparent that in the humid, green and beautiful land of Malaya, the incidence of blindness is far lower than in these countries where long periods of dry, intensely hot weather are experienced and where the heat, glare, dust and flies impose a heavy strain on the eye and its mechanism. Judging from such slender figures as are available and from the incidence to be looked for, under the conditions existing in Malaya, it is estimated that the blind population numbers between 7,000 and 8,000, *i.e.*, about 1.25 per 1,000 of the population. The impression is gained, too, that the ratio is highest in the Chinese community, due possibly to the great prevalence of trachoma and smallpox in China, whence many of them are recent immigrants. Probably blindness is next highest among the Indians, and at its lowest in the indigenous Malays.

Excellent work has been done for a number of years in the education of a small group of children in the St. Nicholas Church of England School for the blind in Penang. Though as yet it has been scarcely developed into a substantial unit. Two groups of blind men in Decrepits Homes in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, under the urge of mind and body for something with which to fill the long dark hours, have themselves built up small basket-making enterprises with distinct commercial success. Such are the beginnings of blind welfare in Malaya; and it is hoped that the Government's decision

will soon open up a wide field of usefulness and happiness for the blind of this pleasant tropic land. There was one young Chinese seen during my brief stay, to whom we hope this may specially apply. The Japanese had inflicted water torture upon him and had beaten him about the head until he had become totally blind.

CLUTHA MACKENZIE.

Plastic Thrills

May I be permitted to parody an old, old maxim? "One blob of plastic makes a Sunny Jim." If you are thinking of indulging in one of the plastic glamour eyes, don't pay heed to tales told in lounges at our Holiday Homes; or at No. 8 or 10 P.C. If you have two sockets, and have never worn glass eyes since your own left you, it is not true that the plastic-eyes surgeon inserts a blob of dynamite under your eyelid and then taps it with a hammer to get it open. If you have one eyeball and one socket you DO NOT have to leave your eyeball with the surgeon overnight that he might make another similar. It is not true. And neither is it true that he scrubs, scrapes and peels your eyeball before he puts it back so that it shall look as pretty as the new one. It is true that you sit in a chair with a three inch nail protruding from your socket. But the surgeon knocks the nail into some wood before he puts it into your socket; you don't feel him banging it with a hammer at all. Don't give room in your mind to the tale that Orderly Guy takes you to Shortlands trailing behind him like a string of kids. He doesn't. You travel by taxi and train both ways. The third day you get your new eye. It is a perfect facsimile, really symmetrical, and truly centred, and you don't look so boss-eyed as hitherto. You simply cannot wear two plastic left eyes at the same time—as many poor fellows have done with glass ones—because plastic eyes are a perfect fit and just will not work on the double-shuffle principle. Also they last a lifetime—always shiny. The only flaw is that you cannot hear any better with them than you could before you had them. But what compensation! When folk see you walking around they declare at once that the world is looking nicer with the addition of your plastic glamour eye.

Southampton,

W. E. BROOKES.

An Australian looks at St. Dunstan's

P. J. Lynch, C.B.E., President of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association, has been visiting this country to discuss with St. Dunstan's the offer which has been made to the Australian Government to welcome as our guests any blinded members of the Australian Forces who wish to come to St. Dunstan's for a period of training.

Joe Lynch, as we all know him, was at St. Dunstan's in the first World War, and one of the most interesting aspects of his visit here now has been the comparison of the training methods which he knew in 1915 with those which are carried on now—training which has been extended and improved upon in the light of many years' experience and constant research.

We asked our St. Dunstaner for some impressions and he said:

"After many discussions with Sir Ian Fraser and every head of department, and after visiting the Training Centre at Ovingdean and attending meetings of the Welfare Committee—in fact, after studying every phase of St. Dunstan's work—I must say that I am profoundly impressed with St. Dunstan's organisation. The past few weeks have been a real education to me. I thought I knew everything that was necessary of training, settlement and welfare, but I acknowledge that I was greatly mistaken. My only regret is that I did not come here and see for myself much earlier.

The thing which has impressed me most, I suppose, is the astounding variety of occupations which St. Dunstaners are following now, and which have been made possible by the men's own initiative and desire to work, coupled with the training and practical follow-up by St. Dunstan's, which helps in every direction to keep him happy and contented.

Training technique has undergone a considerable change from that of my day, and the years have produced a fund of knowledge which is being applied to the war-blinded of to-day.

There is still poultry farming for the man who likes an open air life, and I see that, added to the normal training now, is instruction in pig-keeping and other small livestock, as well as the growing of vegetables and fruit.

In Australia I have often heard it said

that the blind cannot successfully handle physiotherapeutic electrical apparatus, but my opinion, after contact with trained blinded masseurs whom I have met during my visit is that it is entirely the contrary. The training for physiotherapy is long and arduous, but when St. Dunstan's trainees finally qualify, it seems that many of them outshine their sighted colleagues.

The training in telephony is as efficient as it always was, and I am not surprised that the demand for your telephonists is far greater than the supply.

The new methods in shop-keeping have interested me. The system by which St. Dunstan's remains the owner of the shop, with the net profit earned going to the shop-keeper himself, is an excellent incentive, particularly as the St. Dunstaner has the opportunity of becoming sole owner later on, when the shop has paid its way.

Boot-repairing training has changed since I was at St. Dunstan's. Then the trained man returned to his own home and carried on alone; now he is employed at one of St. Dunstan's boot repair depots, where he has the advantage of the company of other men and a sighted manager.

One result of the recent war has been the training of St. Dunstaners for industry. Like boot-repairing, factory work brings to the blinded man the pleasure of working in congenial surroundings and company. The care which goes to the choice of a particular job for an individual man, and the fact that when the job has been found, he is able to carry on that work in St. Dunstan's workshops before he goes to his new employer greatly impressed me.

So far I have only mentioned some of the trades and occupations which St. Dunstan's teaches, but I have been amazed at the number of men who have been able to return to their pre-war occupations, or who have shown a particular leaning towards a special profession. Here again St. Dunstan's has given them every possible training and assistance.

Handicrafts are pretty much the same as they were in my day, except that their purpose now is to accustom a man to the use of his hands, rather than for him to take them up as an occupation. Weaving and leather-work has been added to basket-making, netting, wool-rug making, etc., and make profitable sidelines.

When I was at St. Dunstan's we were tremendously keen on all sports—dancing, swimming, walking, and particularly rowing. We were lucky in having Regent's Park lake near at hand. All the sports and indoor pastimes which we enjoyed are there for the younger generation, but now they have added horse-riding, fencing and darts to the long list.

The greatest thing arising out of war is the spirit of comradeship, and this was never more evident than in that great comradeship which I have found at St. Dunstan's.

I have told Sir Ian Fraser of what we are doing for our men in Australia, the form training is taking and what has been done in placing them in employment; there are a number of difficulties, but Sir Ian is anxious to place the whole of St. Dunstan's facilities at the Australian Government's disposal, so that the Australian war-blinded can have the same chance in life as their brothers in other parts of the Empire.

I look forward to seeing that hope fulfilled."

In a farewell personal message to Sir Ian, Joe said:—

"From the point of view of an old St. Dunstaner with thirty years of continuous association with welfare work for and on behalf of the war-blinded, I can truthfully say that I cannot find any fault with any part of your organisation, and in view of the trying conditions with which your organisation has to contend, I feel you are all doing a noble work of which you should be quite justly proud. Therefore, on the eve of my departure home, the thought which is greatest in my mind is that of special gratitude to you and to all with whom I have had the honour of contacting—each and every one seems to be thoroughly imbued with desire to help, to give all the information and assistance that I require.

To write and thank each one personally would be a task occupying more time than I have now at my disposal, so I feel that in expressing my very best thanks and sincere appreciation to you, as Chairman of St. Dunstan's, I know everyone will feel that I am truly grateful to them for all they have done for me.

I tender you and Lady Fraser, your splendid staff, and all St. Dunstaners my warmest wishes for greater success, and the blessings of Almighty God upon you and St. Dunstan's."

P. J. LYNCH.

Ovingdean Notes

Among numerous visitors during June we have been honoured to receive the High Commissioner of Australia and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Beasley, and the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. and Mrs. Mighell; the President of the Syrian Red Cross, Madam el Abed Pasha; the Chairman of the British Legion, Lt.-Col. C. Gordon Larking, with thirteen members of the National Executive Council, which party also included Brigadier Strutt and Mr. Eric Millhouse, K.C. (Australian delegates).

Leslie Laurence Productions have spent several days shooting scenes to incorporate some of St. Dunstan's activities, called "And So To Work," which will be publicly shown in due course.

The Inter-Dormitory "Quiz" Final had an exciting finish—Dormitory 2 winning from Dormitory 1 by one point. Scores: Dormitory 2, 30 points; Dormitory 1, 29 points.

The "14—18" Club is still going strong, with a membership of twenty-three. Activities during the month included an invitation to a Stag Party at the Petty Officers' Mess, R.N.B., Portsmouth, accompanied by ex-naval trainees in residence at Ovingdean.

On June 4th the Veterans' Club paid a visit to Arundel Castle. The weather was just right and members of the party were in the right mood for exploring, even to making the hazardous climb up the very narrow and winding stair to the Keep.

Saturday, June 7th, dawned cloudy, with pouring rain, when a party of fifty men set out for the Derby in the coach; however, the weather was kind eventually and everybody had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Another Dinner and Dance was given by Mr. Cheeseman at the Savoy Cafe, on June 12th. During the evening Mr. Charles Germaine and Miss Winifred Harris entertained.

The next day a party of trainees and escorts went for an evening outing to Alfriston. A halt was made at the "Smugglers' Arms," where local people made them very welcome. After a few games of darts and a stroll round the village the party arrived back at Ovingdean at 10.30 p.m.

The mid-term Dance on Monday, June 16th, was a very happy event; dancing

continued until 11 p.m. Mr. Bert Martin's Young Ladies gave a floor show during the interval. Delicious "cats" were provided, with an unlimited supply of ice cream.

Our Play-Reading still goes on each month with great success, the June addition being "Fresh Fields," by Ivor Novello. We have come a long way since the Play-Reading at Longmynd, but it is none the less popular.

Congratulations to Beryl Sleigh, Joe Walch and J. McLeod Steel upon their successes in Brighton's Musical Festival.

Footnote—

Visitor, having been shown round St. Dunstan's, and duly impressed by the skill of the trainees, talks to a trainee in the lounge and says how wonderful she thinks they all are. *Trainee*: "Oh, it's easy when you know how—I even ride a bicycle." "Ride a bicycle. Goodness me! How do you manage in traffic?" "Oh," replies the trainee, "I use braille handle-bars!"

★ ★ ★

We are happy to announce that Miss Sheila Clowsley, who is well-known to the many visitors to Ovingdean, is engaged to Mr. Anthony Roberts, and we all wish her the very best of happiness.

★ ★ ★

Test Results

Avenue Road

Braille Writing.—George Reed.

Holiday in Switzerland

The name "Golden Arrow" given to the famous Continental Boat Train, is well chosen. It suggests a wonderful holiday on the Continent. To be actually sitting in the "Golden Arrow" in company with fourteen comrades and feel the train glide smoothly out of Victoria Station gave me—and I have no doubt the others of our party—a terrific thrill. We had started on our holiday in Switzerland.

From the "Golden Arrow" to the cross-Channel steamer, from the cross-Channel steamer to the special Red Cross Coach attached to the Paris train, we were soon in Paris. The short time spent in France's capital was typically continental. It was May Day and, as is the custom on the Fete Day, we were showered with lilies of the valley. The following day we arrived in Switzerland, the whole journey having been

made smooth for us by the unobtrusive care of the British, French and Swiss Red Cross. We were met at Lausanne by the Chairman of the Swiss Red Cross and taken to the Villa on the edge of Lake Geneva at Lausanne, where we were to stay.

Our first day was spent in a delightful coach trip around Lake Geneva and a visit to the Chateau de Chillon. Sunday we spent quietly, and I was happy to "stay put" in the comfort of our villa. In the evening came an invitation from the Mayor of Preverenges for myself and another fellow to visit him, and we were received with the inimitable hospitality of the Swiss.

Money is necessary—oh! so necessary—and the following day saw me cashing a cheque in Lausanne and then enjoying the hospitality of a friend of Cyril (my escort), who gave us dinner at her flat. It would be unfair to detail the dinner—I had forgotten that such a meal could still be served!

The next day we had a most enjoyable steamer trip across the lake to the French border town of St. Gidoph, where we were permitted to cross the border into France for a few moments, receiving a "smashing" salute from the Guards. The evening brought us a new experience, delightful in its simplicity and charming in its courtesy; when having a drink in one of the inns, some of the Swiss men greeted us by kissing us on both cheeks!

On the Wednesday I lazed in the sun while the other chaps went on a trip to the mountains; the wild flowers are beautiful at this time of year. In the afternoon there was a small reception in the Rose Garden, and among the guests was Sir Archibald Macindoe, who was delighted to see the tan we had acquired in a few days.

The living industry in Switzerland is watch and clock-making, so that it was with the greatest interest that two days later we were taken over a big watch factory, where every stage of the manufacture was excellently explained and demonstrated to us.

On the following Sunday I rested, our previous night's frivolity at a Students' Ball at the Lausanne Palace having terminated at 5.30 a.m., with us catching the milk train home.

So the days passed. A visit to Gruyere, home of the famous cheese; to the Nestlé factory, with samples of every type of chocolate made there; Saturday, May 17th:

Object Lausanne. Target, a pleasant inn. Objective reached. Target attacked successfully. Return journey, no cloud.

The lovely, lazy days went by—but not all of them lazy, if you include mountain climbing with the aid of a cable car; a two-day Gymkhana, and another visit to another cheese factory, and by coach to the famous St. Bernard Pass, with snow 12 feet deep in parts.

Thursday, June 5th, and our last day—a lazy day in preparation for the night's farewell party, which lasted into the small hours.

My diary ends here. It is a little scrappy, but one cannot enjoy such hospitality as was shown to us and keep a full diary.

DICKY RICHARDSON.

West House Notes

June opened with a swing when, on the 4th, men from West House and those living in Brighton and district were once again the guests of the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association. That invitation alone was an assurance of a grand time and this, the Annual Outing, was no exception to that golden rule. Everyone arrived back at West House at about ten o'clock, just a little weary but all having enjoyed the day immensely.

The next week was just one long rush. On the 7th a record number set off by coach for the Derby at 9.30 a.m., each armed with a packed lunch-box and enough cash to see us through the day's racing. On our return, the lunch boxes were empty and so, we regret, were most of our pockets! Even so, it was a wonderful day.

It has indeed been a month for the racing enthusiasts at Brighton. Following close upon the Derby came two days' racing at Lewes and two days at Brighton. The weather, fortunately, was in our favour, and we all had a good time—whichever way the luck ran!

The picnics, started earlier this year, have become quite a popular feature, and we have been bowling away over the Downs at least twice a week. In the evenings we have been as keen as ever to visit the Brighton theatres, and there have been the usual whist drives, darts and domino matches, and dances in the House.

The Brighton, Hove and District and the Southdown Omnibus Companies took a large part on their Annual Outing on June 25th. It was a perfect day and went

—with all the gusto we have come to associate with those Annual Outings. We cannot thank our friends enough for all these years of tip-top outings.

We are hoping to arrange a "Sports Week" in August for men staying at West House and those living in and around Brighton. Unfortunately, plans are not sufficiently advanced to let you have details at present, but we will be circularising local St. Dunstaners in due course and hope many of them will take part in the events planned.

Back again next month!

The Grocers' Outing

The day that we, the men of West House and the locals, or Hungry Hundreds, had been looking forward to arrived with a very wet morning, but despondency departed with the joint arrival of a brilliant sun and the coaches for the Annual Summer Outing which the Grocers' Federation have given us for more years than most of us like to remember. About two hundred and fifty men and escorts left Portland Place on June 4th, and travelled through the beauty spots of West Sussex.

En route we passed the Devil's Dyke; fortunately he was not at home so we lost none of our party. Down the hill through Steyning and Hassocks, on we went. Amberley, the pride of Sussex, then Arundel slipped past, and we arrived at our destination, Littlehampton, and tea. After our enjoyable ride, the tea was indeed welcome, and many declined active pastimes during the two hours at our disposal before the beer was due to be shifted. One of the chief attractions which Littlehampton has to offer is Butlin's Amusement Park; strolling through I noticed two tiny men replaying a game they played half a century ago. They were endeavouring to catch bubbles, and their success was rewarded with a prize instead of the scolding of their mothers. Another candidate must have had one of the cheapest drunks in his life, for his reeling and spinning head after a trip on the roundabout cost very little. We left the Amusement Park, with the ladies carrying their prizes, and partook of refreshments while Tiny supplied the entertainment with his knick knacks. The beer was very good, but judge my horror when I was told that Miss Morley would have to return some of the beer to the

brewery since it was not required! Surely such a thing had never occurred at a St. Dunstan's Outing!

TOM DICKINSON.

My Work in India

(Canon W. G. Speight is a St. Dunstaner who for twenty-eight years has been the head of the School for the Blind at Palamcottah, India. Now he has returned to England to take up a living in Worcestershire, and at our request he has written the following most interesting article on his work in India.—ED.)

Twenty-eight years is a long time, and to cover so much ground in the space of a single short article is a feat quite beyond my powers. I hope therefore that the Editor will be charitable and not wield the blue pencil too ruthlessly.

The reader with an enquiring mind will probably want to know how I came to find myself in India at all, especially when it is known that I first settled down to work as a poultry farmer.

Well, to be quite frank, that work did not satisfy me at all. I don't mean that I despise that very laudable occupation. I rather suspect that the fowls despised me. At any rate they did not seem to put their backs into the job for which they were intended, and my best efforts to induce them to do so met with only mediocre results.

For my own part, having become definitely interested in religion, my inclination turned more and more towards the church, not as a profession but as a definite vocation. I therefore approached the authorities with a view to being trained for the Ministry, but the path was strewn with obstacles and it was many years before that part of my ambition was fulfilled. At the same time I felt the urge to do whatever I could to help others who laboured under the handicap of blindness. So that, when I heard that the Church Missionary Society wanted someone to take charge of their School for the Blind at Palamcottah, South India, I felt that here was an opportunity of realising, at least in part, the first of my ambitions, and completely fulfilling the second. I applied for the post at once and was accepted. That was about the middle of 1918, but I did not leave for India until March of the following year. India gave me something more than

a warm welcome for, as many of you know from experience, Bombay in April can be unspeakably hot. However, I went to the lovely hill station of Ootacamund for the first few weeks and reached Palamcottah in June.

There I received a warm welcome of a very different nature. This time it was from the boys and girls in the school. I was immensely impressed, and also a little scared by the size of the task I had undertaken. I found a going concern with about one hundred pupils of both sexes, and ranging in age from three to forty or more years. A word about the history of the school. It really began with one blind boy about the year 1888, but the first class was officially opened in 1890, which makes it the second oldest in India, and incidentally it is still the largest. The first class was part of a school for girls but in 1908 it began life as a separate entity on a new site and now it has five elementary classes for boys and the same for girls and an industrial training section for both sexes. The educational section is just what you would expect to find in any such school and in the training section the crafts taught are those most suited to the country, with weaving taking first place, but cane-work, netting, gardening, house-work, knitting and Indian music are also taught. The emphasis, however, is not on the teaching of a particular craft, but rather to train every boy and girl to become adaptable and make themselves as useful as possible. This is necessary because there is no workshop where pupils can be permanently employed after training, and circumstances in India are not at present favourable to home employment, as it would be extremely difficult to organise a satisfactory system of after-care.

Now let us turn back to the time of my arrival. You probably noticed the tremendous range of years between the youngest and oldest pupil. This was because it had been the custom to admit all and sundry, a policy which may be followed quite successfully if you have the accommodation in which to keep the major age groups in separate sections, and where you have the staff needed to handle each section but it is an unwise policy, to say the least, when accommodation is limited and you have only the two main sections. Also, when your institution is doing pioneer work, I hold the view that one must

concentrate on one type of education and training, and it is therefore better to concentrate on admitting children who can take full advantage of whatever education and training you can offer. Other groups can be added later as funds and accommodation become available.

So my first task was to restrict admission to young children, and I think that results have fully justified this action. It was also necessary to emphasise the fact that while providing a happy home for our children, we were essentially a school, and the emphasis was on work.

But the main background, or it would be better to say the driving force, was the Christian Faith. But here let me make it quite clear that this Faith is not being thrust upon anyone. The school is open to Hindu, Moslem, Parsee, Buddhist or Christian alike, and although conversion is the aim, it is conversion through conviction and not through coercion. Even when a pupil asks for baptism it is only granted when we are quite sure that there is real conviction behind the request, and even then no child is baptised without the full consent of parents or guardian.

It is no part of my purpose to make this article a missionary talk, but I would like to draw attention to two points. First, it was Christian missionaries, moved by Christian love, who first started the work for the blind in India, and secondly, we seek only to bring our blind children to the knowledge of Him who taught us by His example to have true compassion for all who suffer, or are handicapped in the race of life.

Although the strength of the school has not been greatly increased during my term of service, it is well that I should mention that the School for the Blind at Poonamallee, near Madras, may justly be claimed as a direct descendant. When Bishop Waller went to Madras from our diocese of Tinnevely, he asked me to draw up a scheme for the opening of a school. This I did and the Poonamallee school was the outcome and, I may add, the majority of its earliest pupils were sent from Palamcottah because their homes were near to that city.

And what of the future? He would be rash indeed who attempted any kind of forecast about India. Sir Clutha Mackenzie was specially commissioned by the Govern-

ment of India to study the problem of blindness in India and to make recommendations for future development. His report is very full and comprehensive, and it has been approved in principle by the authorities, but how the scheme will fare in the new India it is quite impossible to say. All that can be said at the moment is that a start of hope and of great promise has appeared above the horizon, and I am sure that every St. Dunstaner will share my hope that the star will rise steadily and increase in magnitude until it becomes a sun which will lighten the road to every blind man, woman and child in India.

W. G. SPEIGHT.

Prizewinners

Margaret Potts, of Macclesfield, G. Merriman, A enue Road, W. E. Brookes, of Southampton, and Dicky Richardson, Ovingdean, receive a guinea for their contributions this month.

Births

BAKER.—On June 8th, to the wife of Paul Baker, of Aston Clinton, a daughter—Penelope Ann.

DICKERSON.—On May 28th, to the wife of F. Dickerson, of Thornton Heath, a daughter—Honor Mary.

HUMPHREY.—On July 4th, to the wife of J. Humphrey, of Londonderry, a daughter.

MILNE.—On June 21st, to the wife of Alan Milne, of Beaconsfield, twin daughters.

NAUMANN.—On April 23rd, to the wife of Anthony Naumann, of Bucks Mills, near Bideford, a daughter—Carola Gwyn.

Marriages

BEATTIE—HEATH.—On June 21st, J. Beattie, of Wallasey, to Miss Nora Kathleen Heath, of Shrewsbury.

CONSTABLE—BENALLACK.—On June 26th, L. P. H. J. Constable, D.C.M., of Sidcup, to Miss Betty Benallack.

DEVENPORT—TURNER.—On July 12th, Harry Devenport, to Miss Beryl Turner.

KENT—BANHAM.—On June 21st, Tom Kent, of Chelmsford, to Mrs. Maud Banham.

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As in previous years, no REVIEW will be published for the month of August.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 342—VOLUME XXXI [NEW SERIES]

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

Sir Ian Fraser Visits Canadian War-Blinded

"IN spite of her economic difficulties, Britain has made a remarkable recovery from the exhaustion of war," said Sir Ian Fraser, speaking at a reception in his honour at Baker Hall, Toronto, residence for Canadian war-blinded who are in training at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Britain was looking after her war veterans on a far more generous scale than after the First Great War, said Sir Ian. Approximately one thousand men and women of the British armed forces, blinded on war service, had passed through or were under training at St. Dunstan's. Eighty per cent. of them were successfully placed in a position to earn a living.

"In Britain we have learned, as a result of the experience of two wars, and with the aid of enlightened employers and sympathetic trades unions, that almost every lightly disabled person, a great majority of the seriously disabled, and even a large proportion of the disabled in the highest degree, can be trained and fully employed. Idleness is bad for anybody, but it is a desperate condition for a disabled person. It is not enough to grant an adequate or even a generous pension; in my opinion, no expenditure of money or effort is too great if, as a result, you can give back the independence to a man or woman who has been blinded or crippled in the country's service.

"From all that I have learned and seen during my present and previous visits to this country," went on Sir Ian, "the Canadian National Institute for the Blind has developed a remarkable nation-wide service for the blind. They have good systems for caring for the blind in Britain, and in other Dominions, but I do not know of any which is better than the Canadian."

Apart from its good work in the field of employment, social service, field service, home teaching and library service, the C.N.I.B. had touched the imagination of government and people, who took a new view of the capabilities of blind persons, asserted Sir Ian. He appealed to the public authorities, private employers, churches and voluntary agencies to look around them and see what blind persons were in their midst and to give them jobs, paid or voluntary. It should be the duty, he said, of every group of seeing persons to find employment, occupation and interest for blind men and women. They would be surprised to find that though they would start out with the good intention of doing a good turn to their blind neighbour, they would gain more than they gave, for the blind persons, if properly chosen, would prove to be amongst the most capable.

It was a pleasure to him and to Lady Fraser to renew the many friendships made during the period of the two wars with Canadian veterans who, after being blinded in the European theatre, had come to St. Dunstan's as their guests. Many older men had been their friends for thirty years, and there were over sixty from the Second Great War who

had passed through St. Dunstan's and undergone preliminary training before returning to Canada. He hoped that in all ex-servicemen's organisations, including the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War-Blinded, the older generation and the new would mix together on level terms, forgetting the difference of age, determined only to work together to contribute what they could to their country's well-being.

The proudest boast of St. Dunstan's was that young men educated there during and after the First Great War had gone all over the world taking the gospel of St. Dunstan's with them, and had thereby lightened the darkness of millions of our fellow citizens throughout the Commonwealth. There was no more outstanding example of this than in the case of Col. E. A. Baker, O.B.E., M.C., Sir Ian said. He, and a group of young Canadians, had, with the help of Mr. L. M. Wood, C.B.E., Lady Kemp, and others, established in Canada an organisation of which they could all be proud—the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Sir Ian expressed his great pleasure at visiting Baker Hall, and offered his thanks to Miss Elsinore Burns, Convener of Baker Hall, and her Committee, and to others who had welcomed himself and Lady Fraser, including particularly Mr. Bill Dies and Capt. F. J. L. Woodcock, representatives of the blinded servicemen of the two wars.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser stayed late into the night talking with their old friends, and brought and are taking many personal messages home. Amongst those present were:—

First War St. Dunstaners—

E. A. Baker	W. C. Dies	N. Topping	C. Purkis
L. B. Barnum	G. Hutcheon	A. G. Viets	H. Turner
A. J. Cooper	W. Lamont	W. L. Williamson	
A. Foster	R. C. Robertson	W. Oxenham	

Second War St. Dunstaners—

John Doucet	Harry Coyle	John Reid	George Wilson
Larry Bartlett	Azade Frigault	Elmer Terrill	Gordon Buchanan
Jack Bollenback	Jimmie Hunter	Lloyd Tomczak	F. J. L. Woodcock

Canadian V.A.D.s, World War I—

Miss Elsinore Burns	Mrs. Gorman	Miss Clara Sutherland
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Canadian V.A.D.s, World War II—

Morna Barclay	Eleanor Johnson	Mary Mackay	Ursula Osler
Gladys Prior	Margaret Blackmore	Helena Campbell	Celia Proctor
Verna Johnson			

Christmas Cards

Before he left for America, we asked Sir Ian for his views about the sending of Christmas cards this year. He said: "Last year we thought the world was getting back to normal, and we thought the resumption of the habit of sending Christmas cards was a nice gesture. But the situation has changed and is now worse than ever, and it is almost a duty, and certainly common sense, to cut out Christmas cards. So my wife and I are not going to send any at all, and we recommend all our friends to cut it out also."

Physiotherapy

Congratulations to T. Niccol, D. Coupe, and H. Briggs, who were successful in the Chartered Society's examinations, and are now qualified physiotherapists.

Your Will

The response to the note in the March REVIEW urging St. Dunstaners to make their wills has been most satisfactory—over 130 men having accepted our offer of advice. There must, however, be many more who for one reason or another have not yet made their wills, and as omission to do so may result in additional worry and expense to the relatives left behind, St. Dunstaners should, without further delay, seriously consider taking advantage of our offer of assistance.

Mr. Rice, at Headquarters, will give advice on the subject and will, where necessary, prepare a simple will for signature. St. Dunstan's will, if desired, act as trustees without any charge to the St. Dunstaner or to his family.

Government Children's Allowance

As it does not appear to be generally known, I should like to call the attention of all St. Dunstaners to the fact that although the Children's Allowance granted by the Government ordinarily terminates when the child attains the age of 16 years, the Allowance may, at the discretion of the Minister of Pensions, be extended where the child:—

- (a) Is a student or an apprentice; or
- (b) Is incapable of self support by reason of an infirmity which arose before the child attained the age limit.

If any St. Dunstaner wishes to take advantage of the extended Allowance he should notify his Area Superintendent approximately one month before the child reaches the age of 16 years, in order that the necessary form of application may be completed and forwarded to the Ministry.

W. ASKEW.

Reunions

Since we last went to press, Reunions have been held at Wolverhampton (July 5th), Lincoln (July 10th), Leeds (July 12th), Newcastle (July 14th), and Edinburgh (August 5th). At Lincoln, the Mayor, Councillor H. H. C. Kerry, welcomed the guests and Captain J. F. Richardson represented the county branch of the British Legion. Major the Rt. Hon. J. Milner, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, and an old British Legion friend of St. Dunstan's, welcomed the visitors at Leeds (he represents S.E. Leeds in Parliament). At Newcastle, Captain W. Appleby, member of the National Council of the Legion and a member of our own Executive Council, presided. Another British Legion guest here was Mr. J. T. Cuthbertson, also a member of the Legion Executive Council. Brigadier General R. M. Dudgeon, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., J.P., President of the Edinburgh Western Branch of the British Legion in Scotland, spoke at the Edinburgh luncheon.

On the Road

Bill Wrigley, one of our handless men, became the proprietor of a motor coach business on August 14th, when his first coach was handed over to him by Lieut.-Col. Eric Ball, Senior Member of St. Dunstan's Council. His coach service will operate in the Manchester area and his brother-in-law will act as his driver.

Links With Australia

If any St. Dunstaner remembers George Smith, who worked as an orderly at the Bungalow and then at Cornwall Terrace from June, 1920, until April, 1923, he will be interested to hear that we recently heard from him in Victoria, Australia. He tells us that he went out there in 1923 on the word of Jim Brown, of Nuneaton, and, in fact, went to his brother. He married there and has two boys, one 21 and the other 18.

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E. H. North (who has just moved to 79 Greenway Road, Taunton), says that while he and four other St. Dunstaners were at the Westbury Camp, they went into a hotel bar where their escorts got into conversation with a holiday maker and his wife, who were touring the country. He showed great interest in their party and asked if they had ever heard of a St. Dunstaner named Hardy. F. Aubrey did recall him—he knew him in 1917. "Well," said the stranger, "I was the man who brought him in after he was wounded."

The St. Dunstaner is an Australian—H. Hardy, of Adelaide.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," September, 1917:—

"The St. Dunstan's Rag-Time Band had to come out and show what it could do, for a lot had been heard about it.

"It surpassed expectation.

"The programme opened with Sousa's stirring march, 'Under the Double Eagle.' The analytical note by the band conductor stated that the eagle was double 'because our friends over the water can never resist the opportunity to go one better than anybody else.'

"Item 2 was a symphonic poem, entitled 'Yaaka Hula Hickey Dula.'

"The 'Liberty Bell' March gave Alphonse Van Den Bosch an opportunity of displaying his skill on the cornet in introducing the pianissimo motif, which was seized upon, beaten and worried by the whole band in full blast. Drummer Down's skill on the big drum calls for special mention, for his double staccato 'pom-pom' to denote the nearing of the finale could not be excelled."

Physiotherapy Conference

On August 30th, St. Dunstan's physiotherapists and student physiotherapists met at the Training Centre, Ovingdean, for their Annual Conference. Dr. F. S. Cooksey, O.B.E., representing the Minister of Health, and Mrs. E. Chadwick Bates were guests of honour. At the Conference Dr. Cooksey talked to the gathering about the scope for physiotherapists under the new National Health Service plan. Mrs. Chadwick Bates received a great reception when she, with Dr. Cooksey, replied to the toast of "Our Guests," proposed by W. T. Scott. Mr. W. G. Askew presided at the luncheon and at part of the business conference, and he responded to the toast, "St. Dunstan's, coupled with the name of its Secretary, Mr. Askew," which was proposed by S. C. Tarry. Tremendous applause followed the last toast—"Our Hosts—the Commandant and Matron Pain," which Fred Ripley proposed.

During the meeting the following cables were read:—

To Sir Ian Fraser, New York:—

"Greetings and best wishes from your physiotherapists at Ovingdean on occasion of your first half century." (This was a reference to Sir Ian's 50th birthday, which he celebrated that day.)

From Sir Ian Fraser, New York:—

"I send my greetings to all physiotherapists assembled at your Annual Conference at Ovingdean. St. Dunstaners of both generations have done extremely well in this profession and I congratulate you all and wish you the best of luck."—FRASER.

From Mr. Alfred Mace, Australia:—

"Best wishes for successful and happy meeting. My thoughts are with you."—MACE.

To Mr. Mace, Australia:—

"All old friends thank you for cable and send best wishes. All missed you and thought of you."—TARRY, Ovingdean.

It was a great regret to Mr. Percy L. Way that his health prevented him from seeing all his old friends; he sent a message of good wishes to the meeting.

★ ★ ★

Gwen Obern scored a great success at a Concert at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, on August 23rd, where she was the soloist. The Mayor was present, and the Press. The *Western Mail* said: "Miss Obern obviously delighted her audience. Her soprano voice of unusual sweetness was produced with impressive ease and effect."

Miss Oliphant's Camp

The first post-war camp for men of the South-West was held at Westbury in July. Arrangements had been made for the campers to be housed in Army huts at Boreham, but "squatters" decided otherwise. However, the Army came to the rescue and provided alternative accommodation at short notice.

The camp was a big success. A willing band of helpers with a fleet of cars met them at the station and throughout the week placed themselves at the disposal of the organisers. The camp programme included an "At Home" to outside friends, a social gathering in the Victoria Theatre, a reception to the campers at the Sergeants' Mess at the School of Infantry, Warminster, a car trip to Bristol, taking in a visit to Wills' tobacco factory, a smoking concert by the Warminster Branch of the British Legion, and another by Warminster R.A.O.B., a grand Sports Day at the invitation of the Warminster Police and Royal Artillery Association during which each man was presented with a walking stick from the ex-Gunners; and a visit to the Empire Flying School, Hullavington. A large company gathered at the Victoria Theatre, Westbury, on the final Wednesday evening, when the campers held their own party and entertained friends who had given so much hospitality. R. Sampson expressed everyone's thanks for a most enjoyable camp.

South African News

After E. Denny, of Pretoria, had made an appeal to the Government of South Africa, the Defence Department is now sending commemorative brooches to the parents of men who lost their lives in the war; as well as to the wives. Denny lost two sons in the services—Leslie, who died just before the war, and Richard, who lost his life while serving with the Pretoria Highlanders.

Letter to the Editor

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR SIR,

I see in the REVIEW for July that G. Greenwood, of Enfield, has this year become a great-grandfather.

I have outstripped him in that respect, as I have fifteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Yours faithfully,
Pontypridd. A. W. MORRIS.

Tembani Reunion

Welcome to Mrs. Bates

Another St. Dunstan's Reunion took place on the 25th July, at the Café Royal, only on this occasion it was more than a reunion, for those assembled had come from all parts of the country to welcome Mrs. Chadwick-Bates, the guest of honour and Secretary of St. Dunstan's, South Africa.

There is so much to be said when old friends meet again after three or four years that it took several attempts before we were all ushered in to dinner.

It was Jim Ellis who had the privilege of proposing the toast of "Tembani," coupled with the name of Mrs. Chadwick-Bates. He said that to those present the mention of Tembani would always call to mind a host of happy recollections. There were smiles when he mentioned one or two names and incidents, such as the "eyewash" they had received in the dispensary. Although there was no memorial tablet to show that Tembani had been a St. Dunstan's training home, nevertheless he knew that an inscription was carried in the hearts of all who had been there, "a glorious tribute of praise and gratitude" to the scores of people who came from Capetown and all parts of South Africa to offer their skill and talent and their willing help "to show us the way to a new life."

Mrs. Chadwick-Bates, he said, was the only person in the world who could have gathered together such a staff and brought such a happy atmosphere into Tembani and whose charming personality radiated kindness and sympathy, strength and fortitude. She taught men and staff alike the "Spirit of St. Dunstan's" and the spirit of good fellowship. So we drank to the memory of Tembani, and to Mrs. Chadwick-Bates—her health and happiness!

Replying to the toast, Mrs. Chadwick-Bates thanked everyone for the affectionate and sincere welcome which had been accorded her. In speaking of those who were unable to be present she read a letter of good wishes from our old friend, Bill Cunningham. Tembani, she said, was just another unit in the wonderful organisation of St. Dunstan's, and she was most proud to have been associated with the work that was done there. She gave thanks to the South African St. Dunstan's Committee and spoke words of high praise for all who had made Tembani possible. The rousing

applause which followed her speech was a spontaneous expression of the deep affection which we all feel for her.

Danie Pretorius proposed the toast to St. Dunstan's everywhere, coupled with the name of Sir Clutha Mackenzie; Sir Clutha, who was another guest of honour, might easily be called a St. Dunstan's Ambassador. Danie, an Afrikaner, put to shame many of us Britishers with his knowledge of British history when he quoted from one of William Pitt's speeches, "Our Empire, bound by bonds as light as the atmosphere which separates us, but which nevertheless are as strong as bands of steel," and went on to speak of St. Dunstan's big contribution towards these Empire loyalties. In paying tribute to Sir Clutha, he spoke of the magnificent work which he had done for the blind communities of New Zealand, India and China. In telling us of his experiences in India and China, Sir Clutha spoke of the great co-operation he had received from Sir Ian and St. Dunstan's Headquarters, but his short speech left us feeling that we could have listened much longer to this very interesting subject.

Sir Ian made the final speech of the evening, and his words more than endorsed all the tributes paid to Mrs. Chadwick-Bates and Sir Clutha, and he again expressed St. Dunstan's gratitude to South Africa for all that its people had done for British blinded Servicemen, and all British troops who had the good fortune to put in at South African ports. Sir Ian said that the hospitality was so lavish that it was a wonder that we settled down to do any work, but as proof that we did our share, he read out two more successful examination results to add to the many other successes which had gone before.

Sir Ian had taken this opportunity of bringing together five members of the Staff who had known and worked with Mrs. Chadwick-Bates and St. Dunstan's since its foundation. These were Lady Fraser, Matron Pain, Miss Coultate, Miss Goole and Mr. Kessell.

During the evening we had some delightful songs from our own Beryl Sleigh.

We felt that St. Dunstan's was proud of Tembani, and that Tembani was proud to have been the South African Unit of St. Dunstan's, playing its part in adding to the achievements and traditions of St. Dunstan's everywhere.

Blackpool Notes

These notes cover the summer months of June, July and August, during which period the Home has been full of holiday "boys," enjoying the beautiful weather and bracing atmosphere of Blackpool.

On June 15th Miss Howarth, with her Octet and two vocalists, gave an enjoyable concert to a large and appreciative audience. On Sunday, July 6th, we were the guests of the Blackpool British Legion, which placed a coach at our disposal for a lovely day trip to Ulverston and the Lake District. The occasion was the Dedication of a Standard of the newly formed Crake Valley Branch of the Legion, and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present at this function, with a cheery word for each member of the St. Dunstan's party. An invitation came from the stewards at Haydock Park for a party of twelve to visit the races on July 11th, and a very enjoyable day was spent. The V.A.D. in charge was most successful in placing her bets, as she returned winning the huge amount of 3s. 10½d.

On Monday, July 28th, we had a visit from Wilfred Pickles, who selected one man to appear in each show of his Quiz, "Have a Go," at the Blackpool Palace of Variety. This was good publicity. The Bank Holiday party and dance was up to the usual standard, and everyone spent an enjoyable evening. The manager of the Opera House extended an invitation to the House to attend the summer show, "Every Time You Laugh," on August 28th, and the unanimous opinion was that it was an excellent show. Several coach trips have been made during the summer, and the high spot has been the fortnightly trips to the Isle of Man, which have been thoroughly enjoyed, notwithstanding the fact that a few were unfortunately seasick.

As I write these notes the Home has closed for the summer vacation, and is in the hands of workmen, but it will re-open early in October, all spick and span, and ready to welcome its guests for the winter season.

RODNEY.

★ ★ ★

"Bunny" Greatrex, a first-class swimmer and before the war secretary of the local Swimming Association, presented the prizes at a Gala sponsored by the Penzance Swimming Association and Water Polo Club on August 12th.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Kenneth Brookes (Sheffield) to Miss Betty Norman, on July 5th.

Muriel Oldfield (Sheffield) on August 30th, to Mr. Frank Ollerenshaw.

Thomas Campbell to Miss Betty Lilian Constable, on July 26th, at Tonbridge.

John Benson (Boroughbridge) on August 30th, to Miss Hawkrige.

Freda Nancarrow (Newquay), on May 24th, to Mr. W. Pettifor.

Sam Jennings, Heaton, Bradford, on August 16th, to Miss Kathleen Sheriff.

Violet Milliss (Sevenoaks), on September 13th, to Mr. Donald Wade.

★ ★ ★

Esme Swanston, Lockerbie, who graduated M.A. at Edinburgh last year, received the Diploma in Education at Edinburgh University graduation ceremonies in July.

★ ★ ★

Rhona Scott-Pearcy has been awarded a county major scholarship and commences next term at Girton College.

★ ★ ★

I've Got a Poem, Mr. Editor!
Being the possible reflections of a
Blind Husband

*Who leaves the brooms on the stairs
So I fall unawares?
Who leaves doors all a-jar,
Can't make money go far?
Who uses my typewriter, then makes a song,
Just because I want my talking book on?
Who moves round the furniture, grumbles and
nags,
Never has time to read paper or mags?
Drops forks and spoons and a saucepan or two,
Treats the crocks roughly and breaks quite a few?
Who loses my letters, forgets to darn socks,
Smacks all the children and gives me bad shocks,
Turns me round sharply till I'm in a fog?
Who is it that plagues me? The wife? No, THE
DOG!*

*Who watches my footsteps lest I should fall?
Who reads to me when my blindness doth pall?
Who talks to me, walks with me, cooks for me,
sews,
Washes, irons, queues, yet has time for my woes?
Helps me fight dragons, calms all my fears,
Nurses in sickness, is steadfast through years.
Cares for my children, smooths away strife,
Who is my companion? The Dog? No, THE
WIFE.*

K. M. BEAUFOY.

A Cryptic Competition

Geoff Preston, of Chiswick, is an expert at compiling crossword puzzles. You know the sort of clues. "Ice-cream for one." Answer: Cornet Solo. Or perhaps an anagram—the same letters, rearranged, making a different word or words.

We thought some of our readers might like to try their hand at solving some of these puzzles, and we asked him if he would supply us with some clues. He did, and we print them below. We offer a prize of one guinea to the St. Dunstaner sending in a correct solution, or nearest correct solution. The closing date is Monday, October 13th. In the event of more than one correct solution being received, the prize will go to the first one opened.

On another page there is an article by Geoff Preston on this particular form of puzzle which he has developed so successfully. Read it; then, as he says, "Go in and win."

Solutions should be sent to the Editor at 9-11 Park Crescent.

Subtle Clues

(The number of letters in each word is given in brackets)

1. Ice-cream for one? (6, 5.)
2. Support for privacy. (7, 3.)
3. To the power of two. (4, 7.)
4. Corps (as you might say). (7, 4.)
5. A grave situation. (8.)
6. Another grave situation. (6.)
7. In which the commander is supreme. (5.)
8. Exasperated inclinations which start quarrels on their way. (9.)
9. It has the makings of a decent pie. (9.)
10. What the shopkeeper did for the customer with the five shilling piece. (5, 3, 5.)

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. E. Woodward, Eaton Bray, July 8th; Mr. and Mrs. J. McNicholls, Manchester, August 5th; Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Holland, Heswall, August 19th; Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Richards, Birch Park, Manchester, August 19th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Hurrell, Kenley, September 9th; Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Dolby, September 16th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Christian, Isle of Man, October 15th.

West House Notes

With abundant sunshine and a variety of entertainment, both out of doors and in the house, the past two months have been ideal for the scores of holiday makers who found their way to West House. Early in July we had a visit from some of the stars of "High Tide," now running in Brighton, together with some artists from the Grand Theatre. It was a highly amusing afternoon with contributions from Florence Desmond, Arthur Askey, "Stinker" Murdoch, Eddie Gray, and many others. They played to a packed and appreciative audience.

We made the most of the fine weather, and most days parties set out for picnics or the beach. Two bus loads of St. Dunstaners were entertained by the local bus company, and on this occasion there was a picnic on the river and, later, a farmhouse tea. Darts, dominoes, and the "Racing Game," in addition to theatres, cinemas, etc., occupied us during the evenings.

At the end of July, and on August 1st, parties set off for Goodwood Races. We visited Lewes Races on August 13th and 14th, Goodwood again on August 23rd, and on the 5th, 6th and 7th went to Brighton Races.

West House was completely packed for the August week-end. On Saturday afternoon we invited local St. Dunstaners to a Whist and Domino Tournament.

Prizes were won by the following:

Dominoes.—Local St. Dunstaners: 1st, Ethel Whiteman; 2nd, G. Fallowfield; 3rd, T. Campbell. Men at West House: 1st, M. Delaney; 2nd, E. Howe; 3rd, A. Northcott.

Whist.—Local St. Dunstaners: 1st Gentleman, A. Gadd; 1st Lady, Miss Whiteman; 2nd Lady, Mrs. Abbey. West House: 1st Gentleman, R. Hurrell. Booby Prize: S. Milner and Mrs. Wiltshire.

Later that evening we were entertained by the Commandant and his team of "experts" with "Twenty Questions." The team consisted of Miss Milner, Sister Chaddock, Orderly Wright and A. Wiltshire.

On Sunday, August 3rd, there was a Treasure Hunt and Picnic. Arriving back, dusty and tired, we found the prize-winners were Miss Capel and A. Paulson, of Manchester. The day was by no means over, however, for we had yet to enter into the

spirit of a party in the Lounge, which was arranged by Sisters Melbourne and Chaddock.

August Bank Holiday—Sports Day at West House. Winners of events were as follows :—

Egg and Spoon Race—E. Deauville.

Ladies' Sack Race—Miss Popple.

Putting the Shot—Mike Delaney, 20ft. 3in.

Catching the Train—E. Darnell and partner.

Babies and Suckling Race—A. Wiltshire.

Tug-o'-War—Smith, Cottrell, Rickard, Mowtell.

After returning from the races at Lewes on August 14th, we had a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton and Tommy Farr. It was an interesting evening, and we are looking forward to other sportsmen's visits in the near future.

Another Sports Day, arranged by Commandant, Matron, Cpl.-Major Dawkins, Miss Morris, Jock Boyd, House Steward Mason, Orderly Wright, and the Lounge Staff took place on August 15th, and on this occasion local St. Dunstaners had been invited to take part. We were disappointed at the small number of entries received from the locals, and hope they will turn up in larger numbers next time. Prizes were won by the following :—

Egg and Spoon Race—P. Garrity and Mrs. Garrity.

Putting the Shot—Mike Delaney, 29ft.

Catching the Train—E. Darnell and Miss Morris.

Children's Egg and Spoon—F. Taylor, Jo' Farr and Valerie Mason.

Ladies' Sack Race—Miss Fallowfield.

Bell Race—Joe Carney.

Ladies' Cardboard Race—Miss Cockshott.

Children's Sack Race—Michael Mason, Francis Taylor and Roy Martin.

Sucklings' Race—Arthur King, Jock Boyd and H. Roberts.

Children's Cardboard Race—Keith Evans.

Medicine Ball—Freddie Winter.

Three-Legged Race—E. Darnell and Miss Cockshott.

Beauty Contest—S. Pike and Sister Melbourne (judged by Mrs. Farr).

On August 20th a party of men went to Bexhill to play whist, at the invitation of

Miss Osborne, who, during the past two years, has collected £200 in sixpenny whist drive tickets. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

An evening's boxing was enjoyed by a small party from West House, with Commandant and Orderly Wright acting as escorts. Tickets were made available by Billy Sinclair, to whom we should like to express our thanks.

A new soloist at our Chapel Service on the 31st was Alan Dudney, choirboy and soloist from Bath Abbey, and one whom we hope will come again soon.

As September arrived we were still able to sit outside in the garden, under gaily coloured umbrellas, and the beach parties still set out every day.

Bridge and Chess enthusiasts will be pleased to hear that arrangements have been made for a Bridge Week-end from November 7th—10th, and a Chess Week-end from November 14th—17th, at West House. It is hoped that local bridge and chess clubs will co-operate to make these week-ends a success.

Those St. Dunstaners who bemoaned the loss of the Quiet Lounge when we had to use it for more ground floor beds will no doubt be glad to hear that the new Quiet Lounge is now well on the way to completion.

Placements

C. Bargery, on inspection work with Wolseley Motors, Ltd., Birmingham; J. L. Edwards, on assembly with the G.E.C. Telephone Works, Coventry; J. T. Jones, as a drill operator with Messrs. Boxall and Collins, Ifield; W. Veness, of Brighton, as a capstan operator with Messrs. T. W. Barfoot & Son, Seaford; R. Craddock, as a telephone operator in the office of the Borough Treasurer, Warrington; G. R. Bickley, a tobacco, news and stationery business, Leicester; C. Brennan, a tobacco and confectionery business, St. John's Wood; E. W. Dudley, a tobacco, confectionery, newsagent's, etc., business in Cardiff; and L. R. Page, a tobacco and confectionery business at Hove.

Grandfathers

Bob Black, of Denton, near Manchester; W. H. Harding, of Finsbury Park; G. Fallowfield, of Southwick; W. Stamp, of Kcelby, Lincs.; R. Scrimgour, Middlesbrough; F. E. Chapple, of Bush Hill Park; C. Durkin, of York.

Ovingdean Notes

It was a pleasure to receive Major Huskisson and members of the Westminster Appeals Committee at Ovingdean during the month of July. Many St. Dunstaners have enjoyed the hospitality of Simpson's Club, which has been initiated by Major Huskisson.

Mr. S. H. Smith, Chairman, and Mr. C. A. Payne, Secretary of the Aylesbury Fund for War-blinded, have also visited us with a small party formally to hand over the magnificent equipment in the Dental Centre at Ovingdean, which was entirely supplied by the generosity of this fund.

Many trainees left us at the end of Summer Term, and amongst those journeying to other countries was Ahmed Abdulla el Essia, who is returning to the Sudan to be set up with a handless man's loom. We wish each one the very best of luck, and many happy reunions.

On Sunday, July 27th, St. Dunstan's Mixed Choir, led by H. Davies, gave great pleasure to an appreciative audience. The programme was well balanced and included songs for full choir, male voices and solos. "Who's dat a-calling," one of three items arranged by J. McLeod Steel, was of particular charm. Miss P. Hunter, V.A.D., read two of her own humorous monologues, recounting the adventures of two mythical trainees; Janet Clark, daughter of one of the choir, presented a bouquet to Mrs. Clark, the accompanist, to whom was given a sincere vote of thanks.

Our End of Term Dance was held on Monday, July 28th, instead of the usual concert. Despite the heat there was a full house, the lounge presenting a very gay appearance with everyone in carnival hats. A floor show during the interval, starting with St. Dunstan's Band, was a great success. Beryl Sleigh sang two choruses in her delightful way, and Tiny Brown, dressed as a V.A.D., and Ron Smith as a new trainee, caused much amusement. Bob Cameron at the piano chose Debussy's charming "Clair de Lune."

The Annual Sports Meeting was held on Roedean Sports Ground (by kind permission of the Headmistress of Roedean) on Saturday, July 19th, with every success. There was keen competition, the individual trophy being won by Alan Somervell for the second year in succession, with 16 points, Norman Daniels being runner-up

with 14 points, and J. (Polly) Botha third, with 12 points. The House Trophy was taken by Northgate House, also for the second year in succession. Result:—

Northgate House	42 points.
London	35½ points.
Ovingdean	6½ points.

Ovingdean's last Knock-out Darts Tournament has been played and the results are:—

Totally Blind—Winner, R. Craddock.

Runner-up, J. Walsh.

Semi-sighted—Winner, S. Gimber.

Runner-up, H. Mitchell.

The "14—18 Club" ended the term's activities with a visit from members of the local police force, who formed themselves into a Police Brains Trust; with Mr. Carter as Question Master, they well and truly answered questions submitted by our trainees. All at Ovingdean were invited to attend, and a very amusing and interesting hour was spent learning the art of how to make crime pay!!

Solving Semi-Cryptic Crosswords

In the first place it is best to eliminate from one's mind the idea of guesswork. Give the maker of the puzzle credit for being reasonably logical, with just a reservation to allow for far-fetchedness.

Remember that the majority of clues are entirely literal, although they may not appear so. It is up to the solver to read the clue in the manner in which it is intended to be punctuated, since lack of punctuation is an essential part of crypticism. There is always a word or phrase in a clue which is the core, and careful analytical reading will produce such core, directing the mind to a pinpoint of concentration in lieu of the wide generality of the whole clue. Some people run through a puzzle and pick out the obvious plurals, thus securing the help of several s's before attempting to solve. This can be a help, but sometimes it is misleading, for besides other plural endings there are collective nouns. Anagrams can be sorted out methodically by trying various common endings or beginnings until the right one appears, when the word will automatically fall into shape. The hidden anagram is seldom difficult to trace, because the sense of its context only occasionally sounds convincing.

Go in and win—but for heaven's sake don't guess—gambling is illegal. G.A.P.

From the Chairman's Post Bag

St. Dunstaners whose sons and daughters are still in the Forces will be interested in the authoritative letter from the Secretary of State for War, which the Chairman has received recently on the subject of demobilisation :

DEAR SIR IAN,

You wrote to me on the 2nd July asking the length of time a man has to serve in the Army at present. You also wish to have the latest dates for the release of Age and Service Groups.

Men who are being called up in 1947 will probably serve for two years, and this period will be gradually reduced as the time approaches for the National Service Bill to take effect. This is due to come into operation on the 1st January, 1949, and it is unlikely that we shall reach the period of one year's service before that date.

All the men serving on the 31st December, 1946, will be released according to the age and length of service scheme before the end of 1948, that is to say, before any men called up in 1947. We also hope to release all the men who were called up before the 1st January, 1944, before the end of this year.

Men called up after that date must continue to serve to enable us to release men with even longer service. You will appreciate that during this interim period of the reduction of the Army to a peacetime basis it is inevitable that some men should have to serve longer than others.

We hope to start releasing men in Age and Service Group 61 by the 31st December, but so far only the dates for the release of Groups up to and including 58 have been announced. These are as follows :—

Group 53—26th June to 8th July.

54—9th July to 26th July.

55—27th July to 10th August.

56—11th August to 21st August.

57—22nd August to 12th September.

58—13th September to 30th September.

Yours sincerely, (Sgd.) CORVEDALE,
Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Test Results

Avenue Road

Preliminary Reading—Vincent Docton,
Roy Ward, John Davies.

Interpoint.—George Mortimer.

The House behind the High Wall

A house behind a high wall and a pond nearby. What better excuse for a tour of inspection than the merest inkling that "just around the corner" in Rottingdean could be found a house in which Rudyard Kipling once lived. How to get there was a minor headache but, once there, how would we know the house? By the high wall and a nearby pond to be sure.

Was it not true that Kipling had wished for peaceful seclusion in this house, and had he not, eventually, had to leave it because of the curious eyes of the trippers, who used to climb on top of the high wall and peer inquisitively at him, whilst he sought to write in what he had fondly hoped to be the seclusion of an old-world garden? Was inspiration to be found by feeling that high wall, or was it just once more a case of idle curiosity?

A venture across the main Brighton road under maybe the friendly and watchful eyes of a policeman who knew us. A leisurely cup of coffee at the Creamery, that present-day rendezvous of St. Dunstaners on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and then the search.

A second crossing over the main road, walking along the main street of Rottingdean. Dodging passers-by, who probably wondered what on earth we meant by bumping into them, with only a hurried "Sorry, we didn't see you." Past unseen houses and shops, down curbs, across narrow roads, and then the corner. What lay around the corner? Were we to find the house, the walled garden and the nearby pond? Not we on that bright Sunday morning.

But, later, the elusive house was located. Across the road was the round pond, and facing that the old stone-built church. Nearby a house with a walled garden. Sure, it was the same wall we had found and passed that previous October morning. But, what was this? No plaque to denote that once R. K. lived here. Nary a sign of his occupation. Just a house, a garden—all that remained unchanged. The name of the house? No longer is it known by R. K.'s title. Now it is "The Elms."

But one likes to imagine that in the quiet garden the spirit of Kim hovers, and to visualise that down this quiet, old-fashioned street once walked two men—Rudyard Kipling and Burne-Jones. And so we

leave in peace the renamed house and pause awhile in the quiet old churchyard, and listen to a V.A.D. reading the inscriptions on the tablets denoting, too, that once Burne-Jones lived and had died here.

MAUREEN V. LEES.

c/o The Cassel Hospital,
Ash Hall, Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent.

St. Dunstaner's Model Exhibited

One of the most admired exhibits at the recent Model Engineering Exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London, was a double sculling skiff, made by G. Fallowfield, of Southwick. The exhibit caused much interest in the Press, and the B.B.C. included it in a television of the Exhibition.

For his exhibit, Fallowfield was awarded a Diploma and a cash voucher prize.

There was an interesting sequel on September 6th, when our St. Dunstaner gave a lecture and demonstration at the Deaf and Dumb Institute, Brighton, upon the way a blind craftsman works. Taking various tools with him, his work was carefully explained, mainly in the manual alphabet, to the many people, both hearing and deaf, who were present. The demonstration took over three hours, and deaf people from all parts of Sussex were present. The audience included many skilled craftsmen and mechanics. Even these had no idea that the blind could work so accurately, and there was great admiration for the training of St. Dunstan's, of which Fallowfield is so splendid an example.

A Thing of Clay

*"Man in our image let us make,"
In the beginning God did say.
A thing of clay created He,
Placing it in a garden fair,
Saying, "O Man, do now thy share
That earth a paradise may be."
But glancing round, that precious pair
See in the garden all they need.
Says Eve to Adam, "Come, let's feed
On knowledge and from God be freed.
Why work for Him? Why should we care?"
"Yes, why indeed!" the moderns shout,
"We rule the earth, the sea, the sky.
On eagle's wings let's mount on high
And plumb the depths before we die,
But as for God, just leave Him out."
But God, all knowing, still doth say,
"Man in our image let us make."*

A. B. HILL.

Bristol.

Births

BAKER.—On July 18th, to the wife of D. Baker, of Shrewsbury, a son—Stuart Robin.

DEAR.—On July 19th, to the wife of J. Dear, of Caernarvon, a daughter—Olive Ann.

FITZPATRICK.—On August 2nd, to the wife of B. Fitzpatrick, of Barrow-in-Furness, a son—Edward Allan.

HAMILTON.—On August 17th, to the wife of J. Hamilton, of Nottingham, a daughter—Susan Margaret.

MILLER.—On July 23rd, to the wife of E. Miller, of Southfields, a daughter—Susan Edwina.

ROBINSON.—On July 9th, to the wife of L. Robinson, of Doncaster, a son.

SHONFIELD.—On September 1st, to the wife of J. Shonfield, of Reading, a son—Michael.

Marriages

DANIEL—BARNARD.—On August 9th, Norman Daniel, of Montreal, to Miss Betty Barnard, at Romford.

GAYGAN—JACKSON.—On July 9th, at Brighton, Tommy R. Gaygan to Miss Audrey Jackson.

HODGSON—BURGESS.—On August 13th, R. B. (Buller) Hodgson, to Mrs. Burgess. They left for South Africa on August 28th, with Daniel Watkins and Mrs. Watkins.

JONES—HUGHES.—On August 29th, A. J. Jones, of Oldham, to Miss Elizabeth Hughes. They will live in North Wales.

MADGWICK—JONES.—On September 8th, Frank Madgwick, of Bamfurlong, to Miss Doris Mary Jones, of Whittington, Shropshire.

MCINTYRE—DOUGLAS-SHARP.—On September 6th, Ken McIntyre, South Africa, to Miss Wilhelmina Douglas-Sharp.

MCAVOY—HOUGHTON.—On August 20th, J. McAvoy, of Mauchline, Ayrshire, to Miss Ethel Houghton.

STRUTT.—On August 2nd, G. L. Strutt, of Sheffield.

Death

TANNER.—We extend our deepest sympathy to A. B. Tanner, of St. Ives, whose wife passed away on July 17th.

Prizewinners

Maureen Lees and Geoff. Preston receive a guinea each for their contributions to the REVIEW this month.

“ In Memory ”

Private Sydney Oxborough, *4th Scottish Rifles*

We record with deep regret the death on July 6th of S. Oxborough, of Manchester.

After service with his regiment from December, 1914, until November, 1916, he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in May, 1921. He was trained as a poultry farmer and mat-maker, but when he lost his sight on the Somme he also received such other severe injuries to his arm that he was not able to continue with any strenuous work for any length of time. Paralysis, too, developed later, which confined him to his chair. For long periods he was a permanent resident at one or other of our Homes, but in 1929 he married and lived at Bury St. Edmunds until the death of his wife last year. He returned to West House, where he met Miss George. They were married, but he died before he was completely settled in his new home.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Oxborough and his children.

Private Thomas Gavaghan, *Royal Irish Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of T. Gavaghan, of Ireland.

He enlisted at the outbreak of war in 1914 and was wounded in France in August, 1917, when he lost his sight as well as receiving injuries to his chest and arms. He proved a very apt pupil, learning mat-making, but his health was not good, and in 1921 he was admitted to hospital, where he remained until his death.

He was a single man, and our sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Private Daniel Lynch, *Royal Munster Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of another Irish St. Dunstan, D. Lynch, of Cork City, who served from August 17th, 1914, until May, 1915. He was blinded at Givenchy in January, 1915, and he came to us very shortly afterwards, but his very poor health prevented any serious training. For many years he lived a quiet life and he passed away in his sleep on July 25th. St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral by D. Driscoll, of Cork.

He was a widower. Our sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Private George Phillips, *Northants Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of G. Phillips, of Croydon, who came to St. Dunstan's in 1925. He trained in basket-making but later became a shop-keeper, and he carried on with this until he became ill at the end of last year. His health did not improve, and he passed away at his home on June 30th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Duncan Maclean, *11th Royal Scots*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of D. Maclean, of Brimpton, Reading.

When war broke out in 1914 he had already served in the Army for some years. He went to France and was wounded in 1915, at Ypres, and he came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1916. He trained as a basket-maker and netter, but later took up poultry-farming. He was a very keen Church worker and was well known as a local preacher—some St. Dunstaners will remember him taking the service on one occasion at Church S retton. His health recently had not been good, and to his great regret he had had to give up this work.

He passed away on August 17th, and our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and daughter.

Martin Jordan, *Machine Gun Corps*

With deep regret we record the death, on July 7th, of M. Jordan, of Bellerby, near Layburn.

Leaving the Army in December, 1918, he did not come to us until 1933. He was then still a young man but very far from fit. He was never able to be trained in any strenuous work and he led a quiet life, spending long periods at our Convalescent Home. He was finally admitted to West House in April of this year, and he passed away there. He was buried in St. Dunstan's Section of the Cemetery at Brighton.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife and children.

Pioneer John Vernon, *Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Vernon, at one time of Rugeley, but who, for many years, had been a permanent resident at our Homes. He died at West House on July 5th.

He served with the Army from September, 1915, until July, 1917, and came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1920. He trained as a boot repairer, but in recent years, and before he came to us as a permanent resident, he had only been able to do light occupational work.

He was laid to rest in the Cemetery at Brighton, near his St. Dunstan's comrades.

We extend deep sympathy to his relatives.

Private John Duff, *9th Black Watch*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Duff, of Blackpool.

Enlisting in Scotland in October, 1914, he was wounded in France in September of the following year and came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1916. He was trained in boot-repairing, mat-making and basket-making, and proved an excellent workman of great independence.

His death on July 7th occurred very suddenly in the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool. He was buried at Marton Cemetery, quite near his home, and Matron Vaughan Davies, accompanied by St. Dunstaners J. Bullock and T. Dickinson (who were in training with him) and G. Piper, attended the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Duff.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

LAST month the Editor reported a speech which I made at Baker Hall in Toronto, Canada, in which I paid tribute to the work which is being done there for St. Dunstaners and other blinded soldiers and blind people, and called to mind many happy recollections of Canadian St. Dunstaners and V.A.D.s in both wars. From Canada I went on to the United States where my primary duty was to address the American Legion Annual Convention in New York. The American Legion is very like our British Legion in many ways; its fundamental basis is the Post or Branch which brings together ex-servicemen who live in a particular section of a city or town, or in a village. Their main object, like ours, is to see that central and local Governments do their duty by ex-servicemen and particularly by disabled ex-servicemen, and to look after their less fortunate comrades. They are more assertive and demonstrative than we are but I do not think that this necessarily means that they are more effective. It is rather a difference of temperament than of anything else. In a land where everybody shouts loudly and blows his motor-horn, it is not necessarily true that each speech is listened to or each motor-car gets to its destination any faster.

I gained the impression that the United States would probably help Britain out of her economic difficulties partly on account of fear of Communism spreading over Europe and even into Britain, partly on account of anxiety lest they should lose their best market, but also, I am glad to think, because a great many of them feel that Britain does stand for Political Freedom and for the liberty of the individual, and that these are important causes much neglected in the rest of the world. There is great prosperity in the United States and in Canada, but there is inflation also, and I am not sure that this process can go on in North America or here in Britain without the bubble bursting and a slump intervening.

Three trains out of five upon which we travelled were between one and a half and two hours late; on balance we thought this very satisfactory because it indicated that Britain was not the only country affected by a measure of post-war inefficiency. Remembering as I did that Britain suffered relatively three times the casualties of the United States and that we ended the war with our shipping reduced to half and our industry bombed and dislocated, whereas in America they had gained many ships and much technical efficiency, I thought that on the whole we had not done too badly.

The American War-Blinded

I was disappointed when I came to investigate what has been done for American blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen. After the hospital, most of them went to a special institution where they had about three months' training in getting about alone and a few learnt type-writing and braille. This was all the training that had been afforded to them and they then went home, the great majority to live on their pensions and do no active work. Although

their pensions are good, this represents a very unhappy future and a great waste of good material. As we in St. Dunstan's know, a very large percentage, perhaps as high as eighty per cent., of young blinded men and women can learn to do a useful job and to take their place in the work of the world. A group of more enterprising American blinded ex-servicemen have formed an Association for the purpose of self-help. I gave them all the advice and help that I could and invited their representatives to come to us here as soon as they could, when we would make them our guests for a month and show them all what we did at St. Dunstan's, both in training and in after-care. I am glad to say that a minority of these young American blinded men have found jobs for themselves or with their previous employers and are personally rehabilitating themselves in a remarkable way. This only goes to show how much the others would have benefited by a properly thought-out and well-managed organisation like St. Dunstan's.

Home Again

I arrived back from the United States towards the end of September and had two or three days in the office but then set off on my travels again and in the last three weeks I have been to Eire, Northern Ireland, various parts of England and to Scotland. In Dublin and Belfast I attended Reunions of St. Dunstaners, the first that I have been able to go to for ten years, and found them, young and old, in fine spirits. In England I went to Brighton to inspect our Training Centre, visit West House, and attend the opening of an ex-servicemen's club in Brighton. Our St. Dunstaner, Squadron Leader Curtis-Willson, was one of the moving spirits in the foundation of this ex-servicemen's club and he made a most eloquent speech thanking Mr. Winston Churchill for performing the Opening Ceremony. St. Dunstaners who live in or who are visiting Brighton are to be members of this Club and I expressed on their behalf our thanks to Curtis-Willson and to the Council of this splendid organisation. I then went up to my constituency to spend three or four days with them and undertake two British Legion engagements. I was on the point of returning to London when the death of General Sir Ian Hamilton occurred and as he was President of the British Legion in Scotland, I, as President of the British Legion, felt it my duty to attend his funeral and pay the respects of ex-servicemen south of the border and overseas to this gallant old soldier.

So I have been away from home and away from the office for some time and I am now settling down once again to pick up the threads of my day-to-day work at St. Dunstan's.

Many I know have not got a satisfactory home, although we at St. Dunstan's do our best to help in this respect, but to those who have a home, however small, however limited, I am sure I can say that they would share with me the feeling of intense satisfaction to get back to one's own country and to one's own place again. The United States and Canada are vigorous and energetic, but this Old Country, whether you agree with the Government or not, has much to commend it. The people are courteous, kindly and brotherly and there is something about the climate which is restful and pleasant. By and large, I think our own group of islands in the North Sea is a place where, in spite of material difficulties and discomforts, more peace of mind is to be found than in the New World.

This is not written by way of criticism of our good friends in America and Canada. No doubt they would feel just the same if they were going home, and how fortunate it is that there is no place like home to each and all of us.

A Holiday Home for the Children

This month sees the beginning of a new St. Dunstan's venture. North Gate House, Rottingdean, until recently a Hostel for massage students in training at Ovingdean, and now given up by them, is being established as a St. Dunstaners' Children's Holiday Home.

When the Royal Air Force made their magnificent gift of £131,000 to St. Dunstan's last year, this was one of the projects agreed upon by our two organisations, arising from the suggestions put forward by Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder, when he presented the cheque to me last November. It was the R.A.F.'s wish that their donation might be utilised in some special way to give the R.A.F. a continuing interest in the work of St. Dunstan's. The proposed St. Dunstan's Club in London and possible centres in Manchester and Liverpool will also be sponsored by the generosity of the R.A.F.

North Gate House is a fine house standing on a hill, with a lovely lawn and gardens. It has been refitted and delightfully decorated at moderate cost to meet the special needs of children.

There will be holiday accommodation for fifteen children and the age limits will be 3—14 for girls and 3—12 for boys. In addition, it is hoped that day nursery facilities will be available for children who may come with their parents to Ovingdean or to West House for day visits.

The Home will begin to function at the end of October and we hope that St. Dunstaners will take advantage of this new service of St. Dunstan's.

Application for children of the ages mentioned to come to the Holiday Home as vacancies occur should be made in the first instance to Mr. Mackay, Welfare Superintendent, at Park Crescent.

IAN FRASER.

London Reunion Dance

The London Reunion Dance will take place on **Wednesday, December 3rd**, at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place (close to Marylebone Tube Station), from 7.30—11 p.m.

It must be understood that the Dance is primarily for those who can return to their own homes the same night, as it will not be possible to book any accommodation in London.

Tickets will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort (it is much regretted that children under 16 cannot be included), and applications for tickets should be made to Mr. Mackay at Headquarters, **as soon as possible** and in any case not later than Monday, November 10th.

St. Dunstaner Unveils War Memorial

Percy Stubbs, of Norwich, a St. Dunstaner of the recent war, on Sunday, September 28th, unveiled the Memorial to the men and women of Norwich who gave their lives in the Second World War. He was introduced by Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder.

Percy, who also lost a leg in the war, takes over a shop this month.

Presented to Their Majesties

F. Martin, of Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire, who is Vice-Convener of Aberdeen County Council, and Mrs. Martin, were present at the Braemar Highland Gathering, near Balmoral, on September 4th, and were among a small number of people who had the honour of being presented to Their Majesties the King and Queen. The presentation was made by the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Marquis of Aberdeen.

Physiotherapist Honoured

Congratulations to Douglas Calder, of Coventry, who has been elected to the Council of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists. He headed the list of votes in his section, and came to London for his first Council Meeting on October 6th.

Irish Reunions

With meetings at Dublin, Belfast and Cork on October 7th, 9th and 11th, the 1947 Reunions came to an end. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present at Dublin and Belfast and a number of British Legion officers were also guests. At Dublin, Lord Carew, Member of the National Executive Council, was present, with Lady Carew, Capt. E. O. Humphreys and Major J. J. Tynan. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman P. J. Cahill, welcomed the guests.

At Belfast, the Lord Mayor, Alderman W. W. Neill, was present and other guests were Capt. J. L. Bennet, O.B.E., Area Chairman of the Legion, and Mr. H. Quinn, M.P., Chairman of the Northern Ireland Association for the Blind.

The Lord Mayor was unable to attend the Cork meeting but his Deputy was present. Mr. A. Mackay, Welfare Superintendent, presided.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," October, 1917:

"Sister Cunynghame, who brings the milk round in the morning, is concerned as to what will happen when milk-rations begin. She is always very keen on giving milk to deserving objects, and it will be a lasting grief to her if the supply is reduced, as she is too conscientious to eke it out with water."

A Holiday at Blackpool

I wonder if there is another place in the world where holiday-makers relax so completely, as in this playground of England? Here, young and old enjoy the same things with the same abandon, whether it be licking ice-cream wafers as they saunter along the Prom., laughing their heads off at their distorted figures and faces in the hall of mirrors, being bounced, shaken and startled by a trip through Noah's Ark or being transported back into the Victorian Era by a drive round the town in an old-fashioned landau. All these things we did, and enjoyed. But the high spot of the holiday was a motor tour into the Lake District. We started out on a perfect summer morning, driving through historic Lancaster into lovely country, where men and women were hard at work gathering in a rich golden harvest, on to Windermere under trees which formed an archway like the nave of some ancient cathedral, out into lovely sunshine past Rydal, Derwentwater, Grasmere, famous for its athletic meetings, Ambleside to Keswick in time for lunch at the Royal Oak, where every window is a stained glass memorial to great men in literature, Wordsworth, de Quincey, John Peel and others; no wonder these great men found inspiration and stimulation here. The return journey was equally interesting, through scenery always changing and beautiful. This trip left us with a deeper appreciation of nature's beauty, and a greater love for the Old Country in this, its most trying period.

Here I must tell a story against J. Murray who was at the Concord. He took his daughter-in-law to Madame Tussaud's, but Jim soon tired of the waxworks and told the others to carry on while he took a seat which was nice and handy; he settled himself comfortably and was enjoying the rest when he felt someone breathing over him. He looked up and was startled by a loud scream and the scampering of feet. The mystery was cleared up a few moments later when he heard a woman's voice, addressing him: "I'm so sorry for startling you so, but I really thought you were one of the dummies."

I cannot close without a tribute to the staff at our Northern home who, from the Matron down spare no effort to make a holiday at Blackpool a jewel in the treasure house of one's memory. T. ROGERS.

Stretton Revisited

The holiday months have passed, and all those long sunny hours have given us new memories to warm our hearts in the colder drearier months which must come ere spring shows her gold and green again.

Part of my own summer holiday was spent in our old home, Church Stretton.

It was a happy time, renewing old haunts, meeting old friends, mine and other trainees' I could not walk through the sleepy little town without someone stopping me, asking how I fared, and had I heard of Bill This and Harry That.

Right from the arrival of my train I had a welcome, for as I stepped from the train a voice said, "Hallo, John"; it was the voice of that unassuming, ever-helping tower of strength of old concert party days, Miss Z. Jones.

I wandered once more those hills, little valleys, took tea in the old haunts, had a beer in the same bar parlours.

I wandered through the town, met many of our old friends, the doctor, the dentist, Harry the barber, even Robert, the imaginative one.

I visited the Orange Tree, now staffed by some of the old staff from the Longmynd.

I wandered pass the gas works, with its smell, and clanking coal conveyor. Took a sort of old time stroll round the old Centre, now a city of the past. Essex House is there, but no clicking typewriters. just the chatter of visitors as it is now a small hotel.

But I missed an old friend to many of us. The friend who stood there silent, yet always in reach of your hand, I mean "The Wire."

The wire had gone, the field path to Longmynd closed with a forbidding notice at either end, saying "Private." The more I thought of it the more determined I became to find a scrap of wire, yet always I drew blank. Until

One evening I set out to find a piece of wire, and I did. I, in company with my wife, wandered up to and around the Longmynd, then I had a flash of inspiration. The Tiger Cubs will recall it; a coil wound round the short railing opposite the gate to Tiger. There it was, my old friend.

Just one more paragraph, as true as the rest. In eight days' stay in Church Stretton we had no rain.

JOHN A. MUDGE.

Ovingdean Notes

Among our visitors during September we were pleased to have with us for a week-end Canon W. G. Speight. Canon Speight returned to England this year after many years in India as Principal of a Missionary School for the Blind. As an Honorary Chaplain to St. Dunstan's, he gave a most interesting address when he took the service in Ovingdean Chapel.

We wish Dr. Newsom the very best of luck in his new appointment in Rhodesia, and welcome Dr. T. P. Mulcahy, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., as our new Medical Officer.

The R.A.F. Association Festival at the Albert Hall on September 14th was attended by seven of our trainees, accompanied by the Commandant and Mrs. Dacre. Many celebrities were included in the cast of the R.A.F. "Wings" Show, and the Festival concluded with a Service of Remembrance.

Outside entertainment is once more in full swing. On September 11th, Mr. Cheeseman of London, gave a very enjoyable Dinner and Dance at the Savoy Cinema Cafe. Roy Roberts, the comedian, entertained the party with songs and music. "The Battle of Britain Week" began on the 15th with the R.A.F. Central Band playing at the Dome; there was a Swimming Gala at the King Alfred, Hove, on Wednesday and the week ended with a dance at Hove Town Hall on the Friday. On Thursday, September 25th, trainees and their partners could be seen strolling down to the White Horse Hotel, Rottingdean, where a dance had been arranged, and the music supplied by the St. Dunstan's Band.

The Essex Welsh Gleemen gave a concert on Sunday, the 28th. There was not a very large audience, but those who were there enjoyed some very excellent singing.

The first of our Autumn Term lectures was given on September 17th by Mr. Visick who made the difficult subject, "Atomic Energy," very easy for the ordinary intelligence to follow. In his lecture on September 24th, "Germany under Control," Mr. H. Gibson had some very interesting information to give us about Germany, having recently returned from a visit of several months in that country.

The St. Dunstan's Team of Lady Darts Champions visited us on Wednesday,

September 24th, to play the Ovingdean Men's Darts Team. Both teams played exceptionally well and our team were fortunate enough to win by two games to the Ladies' one.

The "14-18 Club" started the term's activities with a very interesting talk by Andy Carrick on "Tomato and Potato Growing in the Channel Islands." An outing was organised by its members to Lewes Castle and Museum on the 27th and at the same time, a visit was paid to Anne of Cleves House.

Last month we said that Janet Clark, daughter of one of the Choir, presented a bouquet to Mrs. Clark, the accompanist. This was a typing error; it should have been Janet Stafford.

Test Results

Advanced Test.—R. C. Botly (West House).

Typing.—S. Moore, J. Perfect, E. Apps, L. McCairn.

AVENUE ROAD

Preliminary Reading—Roman Dobrowolski.

Braille Writing Test.—Frank Boldero, John Davies, Roy Ward.

Mrs. Spurway

We hear from Mrs. Spurway that her husband, the Rev. F. E. Spurway, has accepted the offer to the living of Holmwood, Surrey, and that he will take up his duties there this month. Their address will now be: The Vicarage, Holmwood, Nr. Dorking, Surrey.

Mrs. Spurway adds that the change of address will make no difference to her running of the Camp at Lee, to which she hopes and believes we shall be invited.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Frederick Chapple (Enfield), on June 28th, to Miss B. Day.

Peggy Smith (Wembley) on March 29th, to R. F. Bullimore, and her sister, Gladys, on September 6th, to R. W. Dawes.

Vera Audrey Gill (Teddington), on September 20th, to Kenneth Churt.

Ursula Williams (Shirenewton), on September 6th, to Leslie Trevor.

Geoffrey Rowe, Burslem, on September 13th.

Olive Jackson, Ashford, on October 11th, to Walter Phillips.

West House Notes—

The Harvest Festival - Thanksgiving Service overshadowed all else this month. There was a great deal of preparation beforehand and in this we were helped, as always, by Miss Pooley.

The Service took place on Sunday, September 14th, the Rev. Crane officiating. The Chapel could not accommodate all the congregation, many of whom had to sit in the courtyard. Generous gifts of fruit, vegetables and bread, including some beautiful grapes - from Lady (Arthur) Pearson, were received.

Lady (Arthur) Pearson came down from London specially to attend the Service and to visit the men at West House, a visit which was much appreciated by all concerned. Other visitors included Matron Pain, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, and Miss Davison; our soloists were our St. Dunstaners, Charlie Thomas, and Master Allan Perkins who sang, "Bless this House," at the commencement of the Service.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Pooley for all the interest she has shown in everything connected with the Chapel since it re-opened at the beginning of 1946, and for all the hard work she has so willingly contributed; also we should like to thank Orderly Ball, L.R.A.M., for giving his services as a very competent organist, and lastly our thanks to Miss Winder (Transport Driver), Orderly Howe, and A. Clevett, of Worthing, for all the time they devoted to the very lovely floral decorations and arrangement of wheat sheaves, fruit and vegetables, the colour resembling a glorious sunset.

By the wish of all the men at West House, the fruit and vegetables were distributed amongst the 1914-1918 Nursing Sisters (now retired), living at the Nurses' Hostel, Brighton, some of whom had nursed our St. Dunstaners. As one of the men so aptly put it, "From us old sweats to you old sweats." The Sisters were deeply touched at being remembered.

At the request of members of the congregation, photographs were taken of the Chapel and copies may be ordered. They are in the following sizes:

8 x 6 inches, 4s. each.

6 x 4 inches, 1s. 6d. each.

There are two different photographs available and those who would like to order

copies should write to Miss Guilbert, St. Dunstan's, Portland Place, Brighton, enclosing the money for photographs ordered.

★ ★ ★

Scene: St. George's Road, Kemp Town.

Actors: St. Dunstaner returning from refreshment. Old lady on pavement.

Time: 12.59½ p.m.

Old Lady to St. Dunstaner: If you're going back to St. Dunstan's, I'd better help you because there is a barrow, a motor car and a ladder in the way.

St. Dunstaner: Thank you very much, lady. (*They negotiated successfully the barrow and the motor car.*)

Old Lady: I won't take you round the ladder; we'll go underneath. You wouldn't have any better luck if we went round it anyway!!

(Told by George Taylor, West House).

Placements

W. V. Chitty, in a tobacco and confectionery business at Bristol; M. Lawton (tobacco and confectionery), at East Ham; Terence Lydon (tobacco, confectionery and stationery), at Hove; J. McDermott (tobacco, confectionery, news and stationery), at Wolverhampton; T. Meredith (tobacco and stationery), at Shanklin; T. Nash, of Rhondda, as a capstan operator with Messrs. Creed and Co., Ltd., near Pontypridd; and H. Frost, as a capstan operator with Messrs. A. V. Roe and Co., Ltd., Middleton, Manchester; G. Hewett, as Bath Attendant at Norris Green Baths, Liverpool; P. Stubbs, of Norwich, in a tobacco, confectionery and newspaper kiosk.

Cryptic Competition

The solution to last month's Cryptic Competition was as follows:

1. Cornet solo; 2. Curtain rod; 3. Twin-engined (dual control was an acceptable alternative); 4. Foreign body; 5. Cemetery; 6. Crisis; 7. Chief; 8. Crossbows; 9. Centipede; 10. Broke his crown; and the winner was C. G. Williams, of Hampstead.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Popple, of Llandebie, August 24th.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Randall, of Hove, September 19th.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

The highlight of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club during the season is its annual visit to Harrogate, and for the sixth successive year, the largest contingent of the Bridge Club paid a visit to this Yorkshire town. The hospitality and welcome to us at all times is no doubt "par excellence," but as one year follows the other, the cordiality of our friends in Harrogate has not diminished in any way.

We broke fresh fields on this our sixth visit. We were invited to take part in games of darts and dominoes on our first evening and we were highly successful at the former game, but it must be said in fairness to our Yorkshire opponents that the scorer seemed to have lost touch with his mental arithmetic. But it was a grand evening and our thanks are due to the hosts. We played bridge matches with the various bridge and golf clubs of the town and our success was much the same as in former years. On each afternoon, we were all delighted with the excellent manner in which we were entertained. On the Friday, we visited the Oakdale Golf Club and there a Putting Competition took place amongst the members and we all enjoyed great fun.

Our visit to Harrogate was made the occasion for the presentation to Mr. and Mrs. A. Fields. In the early days of the Club, Mr. Fields had rendered excellent service to its members and on being evacuated to Harrogate in the early days of the war, he was instrumental in making our visits possible. We welcome him back to London, but his loss will be felt amongst the Bridge Clubs of Harrogate.

We have had quite a busy time with the Bridge Clubs through the summer. We have played several matches with other clubs, being successful on three or four occasions. The league continues to excite keen interest and all the members are thoroughly enjoying a very good game of bridge and the companionship of their colleagues.

I do feel that there must be quite a number of my colleagues, not only from the first world war, but in the recent war, who would enjoy coming along on Saturday afternoons and taking part in these social functions. The committee of the Bridge Club most heartily welcome anyone who would care to become a member. R.P.C.

Death

SALT.—We extend our deep sympathy to J. Salt, of Morecambe, whose wife died suddenly on October 20th.

Births

FENNY.—On August 30th, to the wife of J. Fenny, of Burnmoor, Co. Durham, a son.

MCCARTHY.—On July 29th, to the wife of D. McCarthy, of Northampton, a daughter—Barbara.

SHEA.—On September 23rd, to the wife of W. F. Shea, of Birmingham, a daughter—Jane Patricia.

THOMPSON.—On October 10th, to the wife of L. Thompson, of Gateshead, a daughter—Helen.

WITHINGTON.—On September 20th, to the wife of L. Withington, of Wigan, a daughter—Norma.

Marriages

BROCKIE—GIBB.—On October 24th, E. M. Brockie, of Torphins, Aberdeenshire, to Miss Elisa Christina Gibb.

GOOSEN—SATTARY.—On September 13th, Nicholas Goosen, of South Africa, to Miss Thora Sattary, daughter of our St. Dunstaner, T. A. Sattary.

LANGHAM—NORTH.—On September 20th, J. E. Langham, of Arnold, Notts., to Mrs. Florence North.

MITCHELL—WALLER.—On June 28th, A. C. Mitchell, of Northolt, previously of Wales, to Miss Mary Waller.

SHERRIFF—HOUGHTON.—On September 20th, Raymond Sherriff, to Miss Edith Houghton.

STINSON—BIRCH.—On Aug. 2nd, S. Stinson, of Glasgow, to Miss Margaret Birch, B.L.

VERSTER—SMUTS.—On August 12th, John Christopher Verster, of South Africa, to Miss Anna Smuts.

Mrs. Panton

Many of our men in the South-Eastern Area will be sorry to learn that the wife of their old Technical Instructor, Mr. T. H. Panton, died on September 25th after a long illness.

Mr. George Johnson

Mr. George Johnson, who for forty years hired out boats on Regent's Park lake and will be remembered by many St. Dunstaners of the first war, has died at the age of 94.

Grandfathers

W. Murray, of Enfield (lately moved from Scotland); S. L. Ball, of Neath.

“ In Memory ”

Private James Allen, *King's Liverpool Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Allen, of Moreton, Cheshire.

He served with his regiment from September, 1914, until November, 1915, but although his vision was badly damaged, he did not come to us until 1939, when he was already in indifferent health. This and his age prevented any serious training and he led a quiet life until his death which took place on August 28th.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his widow and children.

Staff Sergeant William G. Sullivan, *Army Ordnance Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of W. G. Sullivan, of Rushden, who was wounded at Boulogne in the first World War, but on account of paralysis, was not able to come to us for training.

He and his wife moved from London to Rushden after they had been badly blitzed in the air raids and he died suddenly there on September 19th.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs. Sullivan.

Private Benjamin Pursglove, *East Lancashire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of B. Pursglove, of Oswaldtwistle. After six months' service in the Army, he was wounded at Arras. In addition to blindness, he lost a finger and thumb, but in spite of this handicap, he was trained as a mat maker and did a good job. For many years his wife was ill and when she died in 1944, it was a grievous loss to him. He himself was taken ill some time ago and was admitted to West House, and after great suffering, most cheerfully and courageously borne, he passed away there on September 28th.

He was buried with his comrades in the St. Dunstan's section at the Brighton cemetery, and many St. Dunstaners attended the funeral. His brother and nephew were present and we extend our sincere sympathy to these, and to his other relatives.

Chief Petty Officer John Thomas Sharplin, *Royal Navy*

With deep regret we record the death of J. T. Sharplin, of Rochester, who came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1915.

His health had never been good and he had for some time spent long periods at our Convalescent Homes. He was admitted to West House last March and he passed away there on September 7th.

St. Dunstaners from West House attended the burial which took place in St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton Cemetery.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Sharplin and her daughter.

Rifleman James Daly, *Royal Irish Rifle Brigade*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Daly, of Dublin. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1922, but he was always a sick man and he had spent very many years in hospital before his death there on August 7th.

J. Joyce, of Dublin, represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral, and placed on the grave a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

He was a widower, and our deep sympathy is extended to his daughters and to his mother-in-law, Mrs. Geoghegan.

Private George Rhees, *33rd Royal Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of G. Rhees, of Brighton, which occurred at West House, Brighton, on August 4th.

He came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1917, and trained in basket-making, but in recent years his health had not been good, and in November, 1945, he was admitted to the Brighton Home as a permanent resident.

He was buried in the St. Dunstan's Section of the Brighton Cemetery. Many St. Dunstan's friends were present, and friends from Toc H and the British Legion.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Rhees and to Mr. Lionel Rhees (brother).

Sergeant William Nash, *North Staffordshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of W. Nash, of St. Leonard's-on-Sea, who, although he served in the 1914-1918 war, did not come to us until January, 1946. His sight had completely failed and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits, being trained as a netter.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and four children.

Corporal John Dutton, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Dutton, who passed away at West House on May 7th.

This fine old soldier served with his regiment from 1902 until 1920 when he was discharged with damaged sight, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1926. His age and indifferent health made training then impossible, but he did a little wool-rug making and netting. He had for some years been practically a permanent resident at our Homes, particularly since the death of his wife in 1935.

He is buried in St. Dunstan's plot at Brighton Cemetery.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 344—VOLUME XXXI [NEW SERIES]

NOVEMBER, 1947

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

ON being elected to the office of President of St. Dunstan's, I should like, as one of my first acts, to send a message of greeting and of thanks to all those most closely connected with our great organisation.

First, to the men and women of two wars whom we have been privileged to help, I send greetings. I send them too my deep gratitude. Throughout the years they have so borne themselves in the day to day affairs of life that it is they, more than anyone, who have created, maintained and are continually embellishing the glory of St. Dunstan's. By their example they have lifted blindness from the category of disaster to that of handicap. By their example they have shown how such a handicap can toughen and brighten the spirit, making it to shine with a lustre not always vouchsafed to other men.

To all our subscribers and other helpers and supporters throughout the world I say a grateful "thank you." They have made possible the great achievement of St. Dunstan's. By keeping ever active in their hearts their kindness and their sympathy, they ensure a continuing and complete fulfilment of our task.

To that great body of men and women who comprise the Staff of St. Dunstan's, my admiration and my respect. Theirs has been the task of building again the broken body and of restoring the shattered mind. Of patiently watching for the spark of life to be kindled again, of nurturing it, and finally fanning it into that fine flame of independence which is the hallmark of the St. Dunstaner throughout the world.

The following, and many others beside, will surely always remain with love and gratitude in our hearts for their ceaseless, selfless and untiring devotion to the tasks with which they have been entrusted, be it to comfort, to instruct, to manage, or to organise.

Matron Pain, loved and respected at our Training Centre by the men of two wars. How often has her sympathy and understanding rolled away the clouds of despair from a doubting and overburdened heart? Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, our Commandant, whose organising gifts set our house in order at Church Stretton, and then, at a time of great national difficulty, re-established us in our wonderful building at Brighton, where he set up again for us a little industrial town, in which all manner of weighty and intricate occupations have been mastered, thereby opening the doors to fresh triumphs for many of our men.

At West House the good fortune of the old boys of the last war continues. They remember with undimmed affection the great hearts of Miss Thellusson and Miss Boyd Rochfort, and their present welfare is assured by another most untiring and efficient Matron in Mrs. Ouseley, and by the capable and friendly administration of the West House Commandant, Mr. L. Fawcett.

Miss Davies, at Blackpool, in charge of the furthest away of our Centres, carries the added responsibility which such distance implies. For the men of the North she makes a St. Dunstan's where all those who visit her can experience that same warmth of welcome that they would find in St. Dunstan's anywhere.

Back to Headquarters—and we find two of this war's St. Dunstaners, Mr. Matthews and Mr. Owens, showing the world once again that blinded men can effectively help their blinded comrades. On the welfare, estate, and technical sides we must remember with gratitude the work of many old friends of twenty-five to thirty years' standing: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Banks, Mr. Lale, Mr. Doughty, Miss Wilson, to mention but a few—and welcome many new friends, such as Mr. Mackay, our present General Welfare Superintendent.

To come now to the core of the whole matter, I believe that there is nothing in the whole history of St. Dunstan's which is not known to, and remembered by Mr. Askew and, in a different sphere, Miss Goole. It has been, and always will be, their full-time working life, in every sense of the word. Mr. Askew's wisdom and knowledge, judgment and experience, have ever been given loyally and unstintingly to your Chairman and to those into whose hands the direction of the destinies of St. Dunstan's is entrusted. Neither time nor material rewards have ever counted with him, and so St. Dunstan's is and must remain irretrievably in his debt.

St. Dunstan's has been blessed by long years of loyal and faithful service from many others of the staff. Nearly fifty of them have celebrated their silver jubilee with us, and I am grateful to them for their constancy.

Finally, as your President, may I say one word on your behalf and on my own to that great man who has been your leader for twenty-six years—our Chairman, to whom last year, at his jubilee, you gave full proof of your affection. This year I would like to add that of your new President, his friend and colleague in the past and in the future, too. He has been successful in all things. And in none more so than in his married life. He found his greatest happiness at St. Dunstan's, and as the story-books say "They lived happily ever afterwards." To both of them, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser: Long life and long continued happiness.

NEVILLE PEARSON.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

President of St. Dunstan's

LADY (Arthur) Pearson, D.B.E., has resigned the office of President of St. Dunstan's and has been succeeded by her son, Sir Neville Pearson, BT., who was appointed to fill the vacancy at a meeting of the Council of St. Dunstan's, held on Friday, October 24th. At a dinner that evening I had the pleasure of presenting to Lady Pearson a gold cigarette case, upon which was inscribed the words: "Presented by the Council of St. Dunstan's to Lady (Arthur) Pearson, D.B.E., President of St. Dunstan's, 1921 to 1947, to record the affectionate regard of the blinded men and women of two wars and of her colleagues."

I am sure St. Dunstaners everywhere will feel, as I do, a sense of regret that Lady Pearson should wish to lay down her office, and at the same time of thankfulness to her for having held it for so long with such dignity and sympathy.

It was on December 9th, 1921, that Sir Arthur Pearson, BT., G.B.E., the Founder of St. Dunstan's, died, and his position as head of the organisation was filled by the appointment of his widow, Lady (Arthur) Pearson as President, and my own appointment as Executive Chairman. Now, owing to the passage of years, another change takes place, but happily the name of Pearson, which has meant so much to us, continues in the place of honour in the constitution of St. Dunstan's. Sir Neville Pearson has been a most active member of our Council and Committees since those early days, and was for many years our Honorary Treasurer until the outbreak of the second world war, when he rejoined the army in which he had served in the first war.

Sir Neville Pearson is an old friend and colleague of mine, and a good friend of St. Dunstan's, and he can be assured of a warm welcome from our members all over the world.

A message from our new President appears on the front page of this issue.

Medals and Decorations

Some scores of St. Dunstaners have been decorated for gallantry, or for war or civilian services to King and Country. They include a V.C., Captain Angus Buchanan, South Wales Borderers, who died in 1944, and a G.M., Lieut. Commander Robin C. Buckley.

Old St. Dunstaners will remember that we recorded their names on panels, placed on each side of the fireplace in the lounge at Headquarters in Regent's Park. Although most of this building was destroyed by enemy action, the boards are still intact, though damaged, but they are not suitable for present use. It is therefore our intention to erect new panels, both at Ovingdean and in the Club which is to be a feature of the new Headquarters in the Marylebone Road when it comes into use next year. We are anxious that no name should be omitted, and I would be glad, therefore, to hear from every St. Dunstaner, of either war, or his widow or next of kin, of his award and the date and place when it was won, or, in the case of a civilian award, the date upon which it was granted. I am most anxious that the panels should be as accurate as possible, and therefore particularly ask that everyone will let me know who received any award, British or foreign, military or civilian, including a "mention in despatches."

IAN FRASER.

Golden Wedding

Our warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. T. Thorpe, of Torrisholme, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on October 2nd. They received many good wishes from hosts of friends, including a special greeting from the local newspaper.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who are celebrating their anniversaries:

Mr. and Mrs. E. Brownfoot, Renfrew, October 20th; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Cornwell, Rottingdean, October 28th; Mr. and Mrs. B. Bentley, Stoke-on-Trent, October 28th; Mr. and Mrs. F. Chapple, Enfield, November 17th.

In Brief

Gwen Obern sang to nearly 2,000 people at the Remembrance Day Festival at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, the first to be held in Wales.

J. McDermott, of Wolverhampton, has had an excellent write-up and photograph of him in his shop in the local paper.

G. Fletcher, of Marple, secured a special prize, five firsts and two thirds, and a cup for his birds at a local Show.

E. Owen sang a hymn, his own composition, as a solo at the Chapel Service at West House, on Sunday, November 2nd.

The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers

St. Dunstan's basketmakers will learn with interest and pleasure of the honour which has been done to two members of our staff by the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers.

On October 15th, Mr. A. E. Fulker, who filled the post of Basket Technical Visitor upon the retirement of the late Mr. Sorrell, had the honour of admission to the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers of the City of London, and on the same day Mr. G. E. White, who is in charge of the Basket Department, was made a Liveryman of the Company and granted the Freedom of the City of London.

Our congratulations to them both.

Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson

The Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson will be held in the Chapel of the Ovingdean Home at 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 7th.

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, a deputation of St. Dunstaners will proceed to Hampstead Cemetery from Headquarters to place a wreath upon Sir Arthur's grave. Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew, at Headquarters.

Festival and Service of Remembrance

A St. Dunstan's party, comprising Sir Ian and Lady Fraser and eighteen members, with escorts, from Ovingdean, West House, and Croxley Green attended the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall on Saturday, November 8th, and occupied the Royal Box. For the evening ceremony, parties of St. Dunstaners from the London area, No. 12 Park Crescent, 9 Avenue Road, and the Farm at South Mimms, made a total of twenty, with escorts, attending.

On Sunday, November 9th, a party of fifty-three St. Dunstaners, with male escorts, assembled at No. 8 Park Crescent, at 8.30 a.m., and proceeded by motor-coach to Wellington Barracks for the march to the Cenotaph, to take part, with the British Legion, in the Service of Remembrance. Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, and ex-Sergt. Paddy Conlin, 4th King's Liverpool Regiment, laid a wreath in the form of St. Dunstan's Badge on the plinth of the Cenotaph. It bore the words: "In memory of their comrades, from the Chairman of St. Dunstan's and the Officers, N.C.O.s and Men and Women blinded in the Empire's service, Remembrance Day, 1947."

Sir Ian Fraser, as President of the British Legion, led the Parade.

After the return to the Barracks, the St. Dunstan's party went on to Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, for an excellent luncheon, provided by Miss J. Dunbar, of Mecca Cafes, Ltd.

Useful

A good use for old cycle inner tubing.—If cut across into small bands, half an inch wide, it will slip over and hold small bundles of willow together. It doesn't rot in water like string, and as the bundle decreases so does the rubber band, but continuing to hold the willow rightly. Half-inch wide bands of old motor tubing will hold stakes round the disc very nicely for several sizes of both round and oval baskets.

Lengths of cycle inner tubing will slip over a braille letter, saving string, and also protect the letter from wet.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

Southwick.

(This contribution receives a prize of one guinea).

From the Chairman's Post Bag

DEAR SIR IAN,

No doubt many St. Dunstaners have expressed appreciation, not only of the general help which they derived from your book, but also of the value of the practical hints on readjustment contained in it. Perhaps you might be prepared to consider the suggestion that there are many hints which could be passed on from one St. Dunstaner through the medium of the REVIEW. Short articles on devices of readjustment, the correspondence column, or a competition corner with an adjudication of the most useful articles sent in, might be a method of making the REVIEW even more live than it is at present.

Yours faithfully,

WALTER THORNTON.

Birmingham.

(We would welcome such hints on readjustment. Walter Thornton sets the ball rolling with one or two practical suggestions on page 8—ED.).

To Gardeners

Lieut.-Col. M. P. Ansell, who runs a market garden in Devonshire, and mainly supplies cut flowers, has extended his business now to the sale of Gerbera plants and Gladiolus corms. With Gerbera plants he has twice been awarded a Flora Medal at the Royal Horticultural Society Shows in London, and with Gladiolus he won a gold medal at Exeter this year. Should anyone require a catalogue of Gladiolus corms for sale, they should write direct to Lieut.-Col. Ansell, Pillhead Flower Farm, Bideford, N. Devon.

Grandfathers

R. Edwards, Denbigh; J. Dennick, Evesham; W. Baker, Cærnarvon.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," November, 1917:

A piece of shrapnel, four inches long and an inch thick, came through the skylight at Portland Place and knocked a large piece off the banister. There were no casualties, but one of the officers who, as he put it, was looking at the raid out of a top floor window thought his day had come. He holds the record for descending the somewhat tortuous stairs.

Ovingdean Notes

This month we have welcomed amongst our important visitors Monsieur Ruszczyk, the President of the Blind Society in Warsaw. As the result of his visit, he will be able, on his return to Poland, to give personal attention to those Poles who have been through St. Dunstan's and have returned to their own country.

Mr. A. L. Murray, the new Superintendent of Linburn Training Centre, Scotland, came to visit us and discuss many matters of mutual interest.

Lady Forbes, who has done so much for the Officers' House at Avenue Road, London, came for her first visit to see the training and to meet one or two old friends.

Two trainees—Sid Doy and Joe Gannon—accompanied the Commandant to a ceremony when Mr. Churchill opened Churchill House, Brighton, as an ex-service club. This was a great privilege, since the actual room only held two hundred people.

Our trainees desired to show their appreciation to the Royal Air Force for their magnificent donation to St. Dunstan's in 1946. A trophy, in the form of a tray with St. Dunstan's crest, and embellished in silver by Messrs. H. P. Jacobs, Ltd., of Brighton, was produced, and this Trophy Tray was formally presented to the Royal Air Force at the R.A.F. Station, Halton, by the Commandant, who was accompanied by Bunny Greatrex, M.M., and W/O. Dickie Richardson. Air Commodore Titmas, in accepting the Trophy on behalf of the Royal Air Force, expressed sincere thanks, adding that the Trophy will be a lasting reminder of the splendid work of St. Dunstan's and all that it stands for.

During the month the Commandant gave an address of thanks at the Dome, Brighton, to all those in the Brighton area who had collectively or individually given services and practical help to the men and women of St. Dunstan's.

Lieut. Col. Davys, O.B.E., B.A., a great friend of St. Dunstan's, visited Ovingdean on October 9th to give a most instructive lecture on the New Constitution in India. We are looking forward to his next lecture in December.

Another Dinner and Dance was given at the Savoy Restaurant by our good friend, Mr. Cheesman. A photograph was taken of the event and many trainees have purchased copies as a souvenir.

St. Dunstaners and their partners enjoyed a supper dance at the Dudley Hotel on October 16th. This was given by the Wimbledon Branch of the "Lest We Forget" Association. Miss Doris Hare, of radio fame, who was staying in the hotel, came on to the platform to wish the party a happy evening, and the following Wednesday came herself to Ovingdean to give a lunch-time concert. A delightful evening was spent at the King Alfred, Hove, on October 22nd, when Walter Gillett, Ltd., invited a number of trainees and their partners to their Annual Staff Dance.

The Ovingdean Darts Team are still great enthusiasts in their games against visiting teams. Another successful and exciting Knock-out Competition has just been completed, with Norman Crane winning the Totally Blind event, and Bill Harby the event for those with slight sight.

Rehearsals for our Christmas Concert are taking place in earnest, and both trainees and staff are giving up much of their time to ensure two very gay evenings' entertainment.

"And so to Work," the film which was shot here by Leslie Laurence Productions last July, has been retitled, "People in Relief, No. 2," and will be distributed shortly.

The R.A.F.'s Thanks

Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, Commandant at Ovingdean, has received the following letter from Air Commodore J. F. Titmas, C.B.E., Station Commander at the Royal Air Force Station, Halton:—

MY DEAR DACRE,

I am most grateful to you for giving Halton the opportunity of meeting our comrades from St. Dunstan's last Tuesday. We were honoured and delighted to have the St. Dunstaners with us.

On behalf of the Royal Air Force in general, and Halton in particular, I want to express our sincere thanks for the beautiful Trophy presented to the Royal Air Force. The Trophy will always be on view in a place of honour, and will be a lasting reminder to all of the magnificent work of St. Dunstan's and all it stands for.

Again, many thanks for your great kindness.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN F. TITMAS.

West House Notes

The announcement that two representatives from West House had been invited to be present at the opening of Churchill House, one of the many items on Mr. Winton Churchill's programme during his visit to Brighton to receive the Freedom of the Borough, was received with much interest and enthusiasm. The lucky couple were George Taylor and Edward Darnell, who were escorted by Commandant and Matron. For the rest of us the only chance we had to welcome Mr. Churchill was to give a cheer (from our grandstand on an island in the middle of Marine Parade) as his car passed us on its way to Black Rock. However, this we did to the best of our ability.

For the most part, our news this month is about indoor entertainments for, with the evenings beginning to draw in, we have begun to think of amusing ourselves in the House once again.

On October 2nd we had a Concert, arranged by the Entertainments Committee, which included Sheila Daly, from the Grand Theatre, Brighton, Mrs. Gay Evans, two comedians from the British Legion, and Mrs. Sybil Mercer.

The Staff entertained us with "Twenty Questions" and some others went off to Ovingdean with a play-reading.

Dominoes, darts and whist were not forgotten, and we had one particularly happy evening at the Surrey Arms, Shoreham, and we would like to express our sincere thanks to our host, Mr. Spencer.

October 12th brought forth a play-reading from Ovingdean Staff (Misses Carlton, Somerset, Arning, Wilson, and Gardener), to whom we should again like to say "thank you."

There was another enjoyable outing for us on the 14th, when we had a Darts Match at the Old Barn Club, Shoreham. Thank you, Mrs. Burfoot and Mr. Jefferson!

A few of us paid another visit to Ovingdean on Sunday, 19th, to hear a very interesting "Brains Trust."

A return visit from Max Miller was a surprise item in our entertainment programme, and Saturday, October 25th was another highlight in a rather full month. Also included in the programme was Thora Hird, with her own inimitable style, and our old friend, Jack Sullivan. Amongst the guests was Tommy Farr, and we were

all delighted to hear that he and Max Miller had promised to come and see us again at Christmas-time. Thora Hird, who is off to America, does not expect to be back until the New Year, but she has promised to send her young daughter to see us.

We finished the month with a grand Hallowe'en Party for our escorts. We were all kept busy for a few days beforehand preparing the decorations, which were particularly successful. We have to thank Sister Mackenzie for the very artistic and effective silhouettes of skeletons, witches, black cats, etc., which, added to the coloured candles in beer bottles and nightlights in turnips, gave just the right atmosphere. The flowers were, as usual, tastefully arranged by Prim and Orderly Howe.

After their party, the escorts joined the men in the Hallowe'en Dance, and the scooped-out turnips, which had been so carefully prepared by the Lounge Staff, aided and abetted by Bill Grimwood and W. Millar, of Surbiton, were carried through to the Lounge and Conservatory. During the evening, we were entertained by Albert Saunders (tenor), Maxie Betts (comedian), and Kay Griffiths (comedienne), and then the dancing continued until 11 o'clock. As on all "special" dates, we knew we could rely on the Catering Staff to put on all our favourite items for the buffet, and so from time to time during the evening we were able to refresh ourselves and return anew to the dancing.

October Test Results

Preliminary Braille Reading Test.—

E. Bedford, R. Cole, G. Jakins, E. W. Read, J. Dupreez, R. Rosewarne.

Typing.—A. Pollitt, R. Cameron, S. Edgar, S. Brooks, E. Hindle, R. Home-wood, J. Mottershead, J. Dupreez, V. Reeves.

Writing Test.—J. Todd.

Avenue Road

Advanced Braille Test.—Roman Dobrowolski.

Advanced Reading.—Ted Blackmore.

Miss Briscoe

Miss E. M. K. Briscoe, who has helped Miss Oliphant during the last two years and is well known to West Country St. Dunstaners, was married on November 12th to the Rev. R. G. Davison, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Bury, Lancs.

A First Visit to the Lake District

For a long time it had been my desire to visit the Lake District, but the opportunity had never arisen and when, nearly five years ago, I became a St. Dunstaner, it seemed that all chance of doing so had gone. I could not picture myself scaling mountains nor could I see anyone being unselfish enough to take me as I should be a drag on any party. However, I have two very good friends who had promised to take me and this year they fulfilled their promise.

We stayed at Rosthwaite, in Borrowdale, which is in the centre of the country round which Hugh Walpole wrote his "Herries" books. Several times we passed the house where Walpole lived and the barn that is all that is left of the house where "Rogue Herries" and his family lived.

Before I went to Rosthwaite I had been wondering how I could best climb mountains, giving my friends and myself the least amount of trouble. Gathering experience from the first climb we did, I found that on gradual slopes, either grassy or rocky, it was necessary to have the guiding, and sometimes supporting hand of a friend. I found, however, that on the steeper and sometimes almost vertical ascents by far the easiest method was to proceed under my own steam on hands and feet. In grassy places my hands helped to pull and in rocky places they told me what was coming and where to find footholds. I enjoyed this way of climbing particularly and for this reason I think the part of the week I enjoyed most was the final ascent of Great Gable from Windy Gap. All the way up it is very steep and rocky with patches of loose stones and sand in some places and I was able to scramble the whole way following the sound of the friend in front and directed by an occasional word from the friend behind. The descents were much more difficult than the ascents and I found it necessary to be attached to someone practically all the time.

We were lucky in having perfect weather the whole time except for rain on the Friday morning which later cleared and became clearer than any of the other days. I can thoroughly recommend this sort of holiday to anyone who likes walking for there is nothing better than to be in good company among the lakes and hills of Cumberland and Westmorland.

I should be most interested to know, through the medium of the REVIEW, if other St. Dunstaners have spent similar holidays in the Lake District and if so, where they stayed and which mountains they climbed.

B.L.B.

Young St. Dunstaners

Jack Loram has passed his Navy examination for Warrant Officer, taking fourth place out of four hundred.

John McNicholls, Manchester, has passed the Civil Service examination and took up an appointment on October 13th.

Colin Acton, late 6th Airborne Division, has received an appointment with the Cunard White Star Line as Junior Assistant Purser.

Marriages

The son of F. Green, of Sunderland, on November 15th.

Stanley Deegan (Brixton), on June 21st, to Miss Sheila Land.

Florence Holmes (Bishop Auckland), on October 25th.

National Laying Test

St. Dunstan's Section

Position	Name	Test	
		Score	Deaths
1	Holmes, P.	1038	2
2	McIntosh, C.	979	0
3	Jarvis, A.	961	1
4	Gregory, T.	955	1
5	Fisher, T. M.	948	1
6	McLaren, D.	934	2
7	Jackson, G.	931	0
8	Smith, W. Alan	689	1
9	Chaffin, A.	631	3
10	Watson-Brown, M.	499	0

Average per bird to date, 170.05

The deaths in each pen of six birds are shown. They do not necessarily reflect on the stamina of the birds, for it has been exceptionally hot weather, and deaths have sometimes occurred from that cause. They are shown now to account for some of the low scores which reflect badly on the breeder if from six birds, but if the deaths occurred early, they have been obtained by a very much smaller number of birds.

Placements

Philip Wood, of Leamington Spa, with Messrs. Warwick Production Co., Ltd., Saltisford, on assembly; J. Nolan, of Queen's Gate, S.W.7, as a packer with the War Office, Duncannon Street, W.C.2.

“ In Memory ”

— Company Sergeant Major Michael James Conroy, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of M. J. Conroy, D.C.M., of Cork, who served with his regiment from 1900 until June, 1922. He did not, however, come to St. Dunstan's until 1933, when his age and ill-health made it impossible for him to be trained for any heavy occupation.

His health had never been good, and he grew worse during the last few months, in spite of devoted nursing by his wife. He died at his home on October 6th.

The funeral took place at St. Finbarr's Catholic Cemetery, Cork, and was attended by his St. Dunstan's comrades, Messrs. Driscoll, Toomey, and P. Condon. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his friends was placed on the grave.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Births

BILCLIFF.—On January 25th, to the wife of G. Bilcliff, of Little Thurrock, triplets—Pamela, Brian, Robert. (This notice has only just reached us).

HOLMES.—On July 19th, to the wife of W. Holmes, of Stonehouse, Glos., a son—David Michael.

MCDONOUGH.—On September 23rd, to the wife of J. F. McDonough, of Clifden, Co. Galway, a daughter—Mary Eileen.

RUSSELL.—On October 13th, to the wife of N. Russell, of Huddersfield, a son—David Christopher.

TAYLOR.—On Oct. 22nd, to the wife of T. Taylor, of Farington, near Preston, a son.

Marriage

NOLAN—BURGESS.—On November 1st, John Nolan, of Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, to Miss Clare Irene Burgess.

Death

ROBERTS.—We extend our deep sympathy this month to Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, of Dukinfield, whose son, Arthur, passed away on October 29th, after a long and painful illness.

★ ★ ★

Sergt. William Nash, whose death was reported last month, came to St. Dunstan's in 1936, not 1946 as reported.

HINTS ON READJUSTMENT

Finding One's Glass at Table

It is felt that the method of cautious approach from the edge of the table presents a rather large risk of knocking one's glass over. It is suggested that a better method is to approach the glass from above and to slide the hand down the glass on establishing contact. One has usually a very shrewd idea of the position of the glass on the table and can find it by this method without difficulty. Spreading out the fingers of the hand as one

reaches for the glass is a further aid to locating it.

Carrying the Pocket Frame

It has been found a good idea to have a special pocket frame pocket made in the inside of the jacket on the match pocket side. The pocket is made to fit the frame, so that it is easy to get the frame out, and so that there is no possibility of the frame falling out of one's pocket when stooping down. The extra pocket is also useful.

Signing Letters

It is likely that most St. Dunstaners can sign their name in the correct place at the end of a letter simply by feeling the reverse side of the paper. A further method which has been found easy and useful is to make a few impressions with a pricker or stylo on the extreme right of the paper at the level at which one wishes to sign one's name. These impressions are easy to locate because they are in a straight line if one has used the V shaped piece of metal across the front of the typewriter as a guide.

Finding the Right Stamp

It has been found to be a saving of effort to tear a portion off the right-hand corner of the front of a book of stamps. This saves feeling at the stamp to decide which is the sticky side every time one wants to take one out. Most St. Dunstaners will know the arrangement of stamps in a book costing 2s. 6d. or 5s. and can accordingly take out of the book the stamp they require.

Lifting a Small Child

This is by way of a warning. It is advisable before lifting a small child in playful manner above the level of one's head to make sure that there is no obstacle such as an electric light bulb in the way.

WALTER THORTON.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 345—VOLUME XXXI [NEW SERIES]

DECEMBER, 1947

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

OWING to the tapering down of the total number of St. Dunstaners in training, two houses in Brighton have closed down this year, namely, North Gate House at Rottingdean and Arundel Lodge. The Officers' Training House at Avenue Road, London, closes at the end of this year. There are still 125 men and women in training at Ovingdean and the main building is full, but it looks as if from now on those leaving will exceed the intake of new trainees. Probably Ovingdean will continue to be fairly full for the rest of 1948, and it is unlikely that it will come into use, even partially, as a holiday home, unless this should occur at the end of the year.

We must welcome the decline in numbers, for it means that we are just approaching the end of the main stream of war-blinded, although the experience of the first war showed that for many years there is likely to be a steady flow of late cases from delayed blindness.

The result of the turn of the tide is that many valuable members of the staff have been or will be leaving at the end of the year. I cannot mention all by name, but to everyone goes the best thanks of St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's. But I should like particularly to refer to Miss Davison and Miss Arning, who are leaving Ovingdean at the end of the year. Miss Davison joined us before the second war, and was responsible in the early days of Ovingdean for the Good Companions Scheme, which brought us so many valuable helpers from Brighton and the surrounding country. When war came, Miss Davison occupied some very important positions, including Matron of Longmynd and latterly as Senior Sister and Principal Assistant to Matron at Ovingdean. Miss Arning has had service with St. Dunstan's from 1940, and has held many important positions, including that of Dining Room Sister, both at Longmynd and Ovingdean.

I express on behalf of very many St. Dunstaners our sincere thanks to these ladies for their valuable service.

I should also like to refer to Miss Bridget Beckwith who, after service at Church Stretton, went to Italy as a St. Dunstan's V.A.D., and latterly has been Matron of the Officers' House; and to Mr. Walter Mellor, who was an orderly in various houses in the first war, and then became my trusted butler and valet for many years. When the second war came, he stood by me while we continued to live in London, until my house was bombed, and no one set a better example of a stoic disregard of the enemy's intentions than he. Just about the time my house became uninhabitable, the Officers' House at Church Stretton was becoming active, and he went there as steward, and contributed as much as any individual to the smooth running of this house, and its successor in London, as well as to the re-education and adjustment of almost all the blinded officers of the second war. I am glad to pay special tribute to Mr. Mellor for, in doing so, I am also placing on record our indebtedness to many orderlies who have given most valuable service to St. Dunstan's, and without whose help our organisation could not have been carried on.

Three St. Dunstan's Clergy

By a strange coincidence, three St. Dunstaners are in the religious news this month. Canon Speight, who contributed a very interesting article in a recent issue on his twenty-eight years' experience in India, first as a layman and then as an ordained missionary, has been appointed to the living of Stockton-on-Tees, and will be inducted there by the Bishop of Worcester, Dr. W. W. Cash, on December 12th. It is interesting to recall here that the Viceroy awarded Canon Speight the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal (silver) in January, 1942, for his services at Palamcottah.

The Rev. Dennis Pettit, who was ordained in June, 1943, and has been curate at St. Luke's, Duston, near Northampton, has been offered and has accepted the living of Spratton, Northampton, and will be inducted on December 6th.

And I now learn from the Rev. G. L. Treglown, M.B.E., who was blinded and lost a hand during the recent war, that he has accepted an invitation to act as Minister to the Crosskeys Circuit of the Methodist Church, Monmouthshire, in 1948.

Three notable steps in the lives of three of our number who have made the Church their vocation.

St. Dunstaners will, I know, join me in offering congratulations and good wishes.

The first St. Dunstaner in Holy Orders was the Rev. Harold Gibb, who was blinded serving in the first war as Chaplain to the 4th Dragoon Guards, and continued his vocation as Vicar of Sherborne, Warwickshire, until 1935, when ill-health caused his retirement. He died in 1941. Then followed the Rev. Andrew Nugee, who read for Holy Orders just after the first war, and, after being a curate and priest in various parishes, came to St. Dunstan's as Padre during the years at Church Stretton, and at the end of hostilities became Vicar of Crowthorne, Berks.

Another was the Rev. C. M. Rogerson, one-time Vicar of All Saints, Pendleton-in-Whalley, near Clitheroe, and now in Australia.

To complete the list, there is a student at present at Queen's College, Cambridge, namely, Michael Norman, who was blinded in France in 1944.

Military Medallists

During the recent war, the Government decided to make payments to winners of Military Medals. The payment was £20 down in normal cases, but where a Disability or Long Service Pension was in issue then 6d. a day was added to the pension, instead of the lump sum payment of £20. These payments were made in respect of Military Medals won in the second world war, and the concession was not extended to Military Medallists of the first world war.

Many of us in the House of Commons raised this point with Ministers of the last and the present Government, but we have been told that the administrative difficulties of finding all the men of the first world war is too great.

Here is a case where a voluntary agency can do something which the Government finds too difficult, and I am glad to report that St. Dunstan's has decided to make the payment of 6d. a day as from December 1st of this year (1947) to all surviving St. Dunstaners who won a Military Medal in the first world war, or, should there be such a case, between the two wars. If ever the Government takes this payment over, of course St. Dunstan's payment will stop. I am afraid no payment can be made for the years that have passed, but I hope Military Medallists will look upon this as a pleasant surprise, starting just before Christmas, and that all other St. Dunstaners will wish them luck, and will feel that this action is typical of St. Dunstan's thoughtful attitude in relatively small, as well as, I hope, in great matters.

A Happy Christmas

My wife and I wish a Happy Christmas and good luck in the New Year to St. Dunstaners and their friends throughout the world.

IAN FRASER.

St. Dunstaners' Gift to Princess Elizabeth

Princess Elizabeth has accepted a wedding present from St. Dunstan's trainees at the Training Centre, Ovingdean.

It is a table electric standard lamp, made by a trainee in the plastic department, and is of polished plastic material with the initial "E" boldly forming the central support. The letter is mounted on a solid plastic base, and the shade and the flex are also plastic.

The gift is displayed with the other wedding presents at St. James's Palace.

Sir Ian Fraser has received the following letter from Her Royal Highness:

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

15th November, 1947.

DEAR SIR IAN,

I am really pleased with the Standard Lamp which has been made by a blinded ex-serviceman at St. Dunstan's, and given me by the men and women of St. Dunstan's. The lamp itself, with its stem so cleverly made in the form of an "E" is something which I greatly admire, and shall be glad to have in my house; but I am, if possible, even more pleased by the loyalty, affection, and goodwill which I know that this kind present represents.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) ELIZABETH.

This letter was photographed and a photostat copy sent to each St. Dunstan's establishment, so that the Princess's thanks reached all St. Dunstaners who were under St. Dunstan's roof on the morning of the wedding.

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

A Memorial Service to the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Founder of St. Dunstan's, was held at St. Dunstan's Chapel, Ovingdean on the morning of Sunday, December 7th. Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., read the Lesson.

On December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, Lady (Arthur) Pearson, accompanied by Sir Ian Fraser, visited the grave of Sir Arthur at Hampstead Cemetery, where Lady (Arthur) Pearson placed her personal wreath and Sir Ian laid a wreath bearing the inscription "In affectionate remembrance from St. Dunstaners throughout the world, 1914-1918, 1939-1945."

A Rifle Range at Ovingdean

On November 27th, Sir Ian Fraser opened a rifle range at St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, by firing the first two shots.

The rifle range is a result of experiments carried out by Mr. P. B. Nye, St. Dunstan's chief research engineer, at the suggestion of the Commandant, Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre.

The rifle used is of standard pattern, firing normal .22 ammunition, designated for all miniature rifle ranges. "Sighting" the bull is carried out electronically, and the rifleman judges his aim by the note heard, either over a loudspeaker or by telephone. When the rifle is accurately sighted, no sound is heard.

The range has been inspected by the Brighton police authorities, and a certificate of safety has been issued. It now awaits the official permission of the War Office.

Sir Ian Fraser was accompanied at the opening by Lieut.-Col. Sir Lionel Fletcher, chairman of the National Small Bore Rifle Association, and vice-chairman of the N.R.A., who, blindfold, registered the first bull.

Placements

G. Beard, Walton-on-Thames, as a tobacconist shop-keeper; John Cowan, Leicester, as a tobacconist shop-keeper; B. Inman, Elstree, with Messrs. Dufay-Chromes, Ltd., on spool-winding; W. Miller, as telephone operator with the City of Leeds Electricity Department.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," December, 1947:

"If any of you are asked what you would like for a Christmas present, suggest a clock with a good sensible tick. You will find, as I do, that a clock is a great help in enabling one to locate one's position in a room, and to move about it with ease and accuracy. In the winter time, the crackle of the fire is often a useful guide, but the fire does not always crackle, neither is it there all the year round. The ticking clock is a good and safe guide, and by following its unostentatious signalling, you will often find yourself moving about a room in a way which occasions surprise to people who do not tumble to the help given by the little friend on the mantelpiece."

—SIR ARTHUR PEARSON,
in "Notes by the Chief."

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,—There is a rumour abroad in the pubs and quiet lounges that the Appeals Department is no more; in fact, that it never was. Why otherwise, goes the argument, was the President so hush-hush about it in this month's REVIEW? It is suggested that a small tooth-comb was used to find out what was what in St. Dunstan's, and the result showed no evidence of such a department, that Miss Marshall, in fact, is only the fairy godmother of an old tale, and is, in any case, too good to be true. I should greatly appreciate your opinion on this matter. Though perhaps the truth is that the Spirit of St. Dunstan's is above such mundane things as bawbees and, like the real ladies of old, believed to exist without such crude nourishment.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT YOUNG.

Dorking, Surrey.

The President's Reply

10th December, 1947.

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,—There are various reasons why I did not mention the Appeals, or for that matter the Publicity Department of St. Dunstan's in my message of thanks and appreciation.

At the time of writing I had in mind particularly our men and women themselves and those who are more directly concerned with their welfare.

The money-raising and publicity sides of St. Dunstan's fall into a somewhat different category. The work of these Departments is a great and necessary adjunct to St. Dunstan's, but it is not that heart and spirit of our enterprise to which I was particularly referring. Theirs is rather the relationship of the printing press to the great newspaper, or the tools and jigs to the Rolls Royce which they create. This does not mean that we are any the less grateful to Mr. Stanford or to Miss Marshall, or indeed to all who work in our Appeals or Publicity Department, as well as to Mr. Robert Young and to all St. Dunstaners who contribute in varying degrees to the successful operation of our staff.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) NEVILLE PEARSON.

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,—Some St. Dunstan's men are humorous without knowing it, or do they? For instance, Walter Thornton, of Birmingham, in "Hints on finding one's glass." I think Walter must be a new man, as he does not realise that 98 per cent. of St. Dunstan's men are gifted at finding glasses, especially if they are full! and they always attack them from the top.

I belong to a group of men known as telephonists—we have been called other things!—and I believe we have handled as many glasses as the Bank of England has got pound notes. What is more, people have marvelled at us passing them from one to the other without spilling a drop. This is a gift which cannot be taught at St. Dunstan's.

My hint to St. Dunstan's men is that they should all carry a white stick. They will find this is a great help, and what is more, it is a greater help to the public. I know the Chairman is against white sticks, but he is in the fortunate position of having a car—which reminds me, Sir Ian, if you ever have an old car going "buckshee" I should be pleased to accept it!

Yours sincerely,

Ilford.

JOCK MACFARLANE.

Enjoying Films

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,—Following a visit to the cinema with my brother, I have been thinking over the matter of a St. Dunstaner obtaining the most enjoyment from his visit to the films.

My brother and I, on this occasion, tried out the idea of pin-pointing a few of the main features of the film beforehand, a sort of brief synopsis. I found this added greatly to my enjoyment of the film, and it was not necessary for my escort to explain any episode during the film.

The suggestion is that the film people should supply St. Dunstan's with a synopsis—only of the new films, of course—and from this we might be able to issue a very brief outline of the story, pin-pointing the less obvious situations.

It would be interesting to know if other St. Dunstaners agree with me that help of this kind is needed, in order to obtain full enjoyment from the film.

Yours sincerely,

Harrogate.

BILL MOON.

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,—I have had the advantage of reading Squadron Leader W. Moon's letter. I do not think I have been to more than three or four films since I was blinded some thirty years ago, and I am therefore extremely unskilled, though I am a very regular theatre-goer. The film is primarily a visual medium and I would expect that a blind man would miss very much. Perhaps there is much to miss in many films. I can only quote one recent experience. When in the United States lately, my host took me to see an English film, "Great Expectations," because he was so pleased it was being shown in his village. This is, of course, a straightforward tale, and I had read the book as a boy thirty-five years ago, but I did not remember much about it. Although there were considerable periods during which pictures were being shown but there was no speech, I found I could follow almost every detail of the drama, and in some cases I spotted what was coming before it came. This is, I suppose, due to much playgoing and a certain dramatic imagination. I wonder if this is the experience of those St. Dunstaners who go regularly to the films?

IAN FRASER.

Braille Magazines

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review"

DEAR SIR,—When I became able to read braille, the "Hampstead" used to state on its front page that its stories were taken from the publications of George Newnes.

The N.I.B. has published a collection of the world's best short stories, and might, when the paper position allows, publish more of them. Yours sincerely,

North Auckland, JAMES CHISHOLM.
New Zealand.

True Story Department

I was going home one dinner-time from my shop when a woman approached me and asked if I would like to buy a bunch of buttercups. I did buy them and as I was standing on the edge of the pavement by the level crossing, waiting to go across the road, I suddenly felt that my arm and shoulder were touching someone. I at once apologised and turned round. The "someone" was a big railway horse, and my bunch of buttercups was gone.

Bath.

A. STERNO.

London Reunion Dance

There were over two hundred St. Dunstaners from the London area, with their escorts, at the Seymour Hall on Wednesday, December 3rd, for the London Reunion Dance.

Sir Neville Pearson received a hearty welcome when Sir Ian Fraser introduced him as the new President of St. Dunstan's. "The great thing about St. Dunstan's," he said, "is its stability and the cheerfulness of St. Dunstaners; as long as I can remember it has been the same." (Cheers).

The President proposed a hearty vote of thanks to all the staff of St. Dunstan's for their service during the year. This was carried with applause.

The London Club

Sir Ian Fraser said that when the new Headquarters at 191 Marylebone Road were ready next year, the London Club would be an important feature. He hoped that it would revive the friendly spirit of the old lounge at Headquarters, so that men who came to see us on business, or who were passing through London would be made to feel at home. There would, in addition, of course, be evening events and associated with the Club would be residential quarters, to take the place of the present house at No. 8 Park Crescent, so that those passing through London could stay for a night.

Continuing, Sir Ian said it was just a year since they made him and Lady Fraser the presentation which they valued so greatly. He thought he ought to report that, although they had looked in many shops, and enquired in different parts of the country, they had not found exactly the old silver they wanted. This gift was so important to them that they wanted it to be just right, and felt sure their friends would understand if they took a little time to find it. (Hear, hear).

"You will be glad to know, however," Sir Ian added, "that the stick Mr. Churchill gave me in your behalf as a token is still in my hand daily, and that the rest of the money is still in Mr. Askew's hands, as trustee; we haven't 'blown it!'" (Laughter).

Colonel Eric Ball and his daughter, Mrs. Scott, Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, and Sir Ian Fraser put up a shocking performance as a quintet in the Palais Glide.

Lady Pearson said: "The trouble is that these three determined men won't work as a team." Sir Ian said he was the only one in step.

Music was provided by the band of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues).

War Decorations and Medals

Sir Ian Fraser has raised the question of war decorations and medals in the House of Commons, first with the Prime Minister and then on an Adjournment Debate.

He pointed out that, after the first war, three million medals had already been distributed after two years. We were now told that none would be distributed until the end of 1948, that is, three and a half years after the end of the war. Why this delay?

Other questions Sir Ian asked were:

Are individual names going to be written on the side?

How will medals be distributed?

Older men, Sir Ian said, often forbore to wear their medals at Legion gatherings out of consideration for the younger men, who had none. It was a bad thing to discourage men from wearing their medals. A little colour and symbolism would cheer us up in this dreary world.

The Under Secretary of State for Air (Mr. G. de Freitas) replying, said that the delay in issue of initial decorations and medals is in most cases because medals have been returned "address unknown."

With regard to General Service Stars and Medals, our production task to-day was very different from the period after the last war. Instead of a few hundred thousand Campaign Stars, for instance, we need eight millions. Twelve million War Medals would be finished in two years—about half a million a month, starting very early next year. The name would not be stamped on the back of the medal.

There will be one distribution only—one to each person, and distribution cannot begin until each distributing authority has several thousands, at least of the medals, and large supplies of the packing boxes.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hill, Tideswell, December 26th; Mr. and Mrs. R. Archer, Sandringham, Australia, February 3rd.

Congratulations!

From the Chairman's Postbag

On October 23rd, Sir Ian Fraser wrote to Mr. Alfred Robens, M.P., Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Ministry of Fuel and Power, as follows:—

DEAR ROBENS,

I understand that your Ministry has made a special concession for a basic petrol ration for 100 per cent. disabled people for domestic use. Could you please let me know whether this is so, and, if so, how application should be made for it.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) IAN FRASER.

Mr. Robens has replied as follows:—

DEAR SIR IAN,

Thank you for your letter of the 23rd October, about petrol allowances for 100 per cent. disabled persons.

As you know, all invalid and disabled persons have had special consideration throughout the entire period of petrol rationing for compassionate allowances, quite apart from supplementary allowances for professional and business purposes, or the basic ration during the periods in which this has been in operation. During the years 1942 to 1945, when there was no basic ration, compassionate allowances were also granted for all the miscellaneous purposes normally covered by the use of basic rations.

In regard to totally disabled persons wholly dependent on cars for getting about, our Regional Officers have wide discretionary powers to grant allowances as a means whereby they can maintain health and a reasonable amount of normal social life.

Applications should be made on Form R. (M.S.) 1, which is obtainable from all post offices doing motor taxation business, and should be sent to the appropriate Regional Petroleum Office, accompanied by a medical certificate as proof of total disablement.

I can assure you that all deserving cases will be given sympathetic treatment.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) ALFRED ROBENS.

W. Lowings, of Chandlers Ford, presented a tray, made by himself, to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth, on the occasion of her marriage, and on November 18th he attended a Party at St. James's Palace to view the wedding presents. He has sent us a most interesting account of his visit there.

Ovingdean Notes

The end of term Concert on November 26th and 27th has given us that Christmas feeling earlier this year, and made it difficult to settle down to work again.

There is no need to say how delighted we were to welcome our Guest Artists: Beryl Sleigh, Gwen Obern, Tiny Hill Brown, and Ron Smith. The "Brytonics" gave us a grand variety of entertainment; we were charmed by songs and melodies, and laughed until our sides ached at the sketches.

The Cash or Forfeits Quiz, with Mr. Cheesman as Question Master, was a very popular item, and gave the audience an opportunity to show its own talents! Trainees of the "14-18 Club" brought back memories of the "good old days." We were delighted when our Chairman and Commandant donned tin hats and great-coats and joined in with the choruses.

Our thanks to the producers, Mr. Morton and Mr. Cheesman, and the artists, for a first-class entertainment.

And now back to the beginning of the month, when we welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Learmont on their first visit. Mr. Learmont was Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of St. Dunstan's Committee in Buenos Aires.

The Service of Remembrance was held in Ovingdean Chapel on November 9th, and was conducted by Canon Speight. Four St. Dunstaners, representing the Navy, Army, R.A.F., and Women's Services, supported Mr. Anderson in the laying of the poppy wreath at the Altar, Mr. Anderson deputising for the Commandant, who was at the Cenotaph Ceremony in London.

A Dancing Competition, judged by Miss Babs Slough, took place at Sherry's Dance Hall on the 6th. Harry Foster won first prize of a silver cup, Charles Stafford and Eileen Gould were second and third respectively, both receiving silver cups; Eileen also received a bouquet.

The Darts Team misses Norman Crane, who has been a regular and keen player; we wish him and all who have left this term the best of luck in their new ventures.

Test Results

Avenue Road

Advanced Reading.—Frank Boldero.

Typing.—Michael Ansell, J. Cook.

★ ★ ★

J. Lawlor, of Birmingham, is a great grandfather.

Other News

St. Dunstan's magicians-in-training had a good write-up in the *Daily Graphic* on November 27th, when Victor Lewis wrote of the happenings at Headquarters on Friday evenings. He particularly mentioned W. T. Scott, of Streatham, "performing feats of magic which would do credit to a sighted man"; Terry Roden and John Mudge, who are learning ventriloquism, Jack Pearce handling puppets from a Punch and Judy Show, and the wise-cracking "Smudger" Smith memorising the intricacies of paper-folding.

★ ★ ★

Pamela Carlton, the little daughter of W. C. Carlton, of Wakefield, is 2 years 10 months. The other day, unobserved, she slipped away from home and the next heard of her was when she toddled into Pinderfields Hospital, where Cliff is a chartered physiotherapist. "I've come to get you, Daddy," she said. An anxious Mrs. Carlton had meanwhile reported her missing to the police. Mrs. Carlton, with Pamela, meets her husband every day.

★ ★ ★

Gerry Brereton, of Derby, has another broadcast with his band from the North of England Home Service on December 22nd.

★ ★ ★

Mr. Syd Manchee, of Brighton ("Syd Walker" to many St. Dunstaners, and one of the original "Good Companions"), has brought in no less than £1,002 16s. 4d. for St. Dunstan's through our Brighton Appeals Office. In 1944 he travelled some 2,750 miles, escorting our men to and from Melplash and Blackpool.

★ ★ ★

George Pollard, of Rothwell, Kettering, has been made a member of the Rothwell N.U.R., and Chairman of the Local Departmental Committee.

★ ★ ★

Jack McGill, of New Zealand, would like his friends to know his new address: Whangaparaoa, Via Silverdale, Auckland, New Zealand. He has recently re-married.

★ ★ ★

The National Library for the Blind have issued a volume of short stories by W. E. Brookes, of Southampton. They are a selection which he made from his stories, published in popular weeklies, etc., over the past twenty-five years.

West House Notes

Our first visitors during November were those for the special Bridge Week-end, reported in full elsewhere, and then from November 14th until 16th we had the Chess Week-end. Congratulations to all prize-winners!

On November 8th a party of four, Allcock, Burton, Tiny Northcott, and Shaylor, escorted by Commandant and Sister Carter, joined up with the party from Ovingdean and Croxley Green, in the Royal Box at the Remembrance Festival at the Royal Albert Hall. The following morning, Barney Martin, Shaylor and Burton, with Orderlies Innes and Bones, went to the Cenotaph Service as representatives from West House. The Service at West House itself was held in the Lounge, and conducted by Commandant. A wreath was laid on the War Memorial, Brighton, by Micky Burns.

We had our usual arrangements for dominoes and darts, and on November 18th a presentation of a wallet was made by Harry Russell to Mr. Jefferson, who has given so much help in running these evenings, and who is now leaving us.

We had, of course, our own special way of celebrating the Royal Wedding, and, in fact, made the celebrations last three days!

On December 7th a Memorial Service to the late Sir Arthur Pearson was conducted at West House by the Rev. H. J. Kingston; Jock Boyd gave an inspiring address.

A Week-end of Bridge

On November 7th, thirty-seven St. Dunstaners gathered together at West House for a week-end of Bridge. It was evident they were bridge-ites by the din, everyone eagerly explaining to anyone who would listen to his personal triumphs since last they met. Trumpets are as dear to bridge players as long arms are to fishermen. However, what matters when such a grand crowd get together, and there is no mistake about the "grand crowd." The essence of the week-end was good fellowship, and keen bridge. Congratulations to the Commandant and staff for operating an excellent move.

On Friday evening it was "get together" and on Saturday morning "all hands on the Prom," and very nice, too, leaving a small working party to arrange details.

On Friday afternoon eight St. Dunstaners were entertained at Hove Bridge Club, the remainder competed in a Bridge Drive, held in the Conservatory. This was a social drive, all names going into the hat and a draw made for partners. A similar drive was held in the evening, and on this occasion Squadron Leader W. T. Curtis-Willson was able to join in.

On Sunday afternoon another eight were entertained by the Hove Bridge Club, and twelve ladies from that Club were our guests at West House. The Bridge Drive on this occasion was "Partners," everyone playing with the partner of their own choice. This, of course, gave the St. Dunstan's "Tigers" an opportunity to exhibit their combined skill. Alas, the "rabbits" were not fascinated; they just waded in and some tasted "Tiger" for the first time.

In the evening we swept up the fur and concluded with another Social Drive. The complete list of winners is as follows:—

Saturday afternoon: Powell, Gover, Webster, Wylie, Caldwell, Blodwyn.

Saturday evening: Van Niekerk, Jolly, Capel, Caldwell, Collins, Fisher, Roden, Wiltshire.

Sunday afternoon: Blodwyn, Miller, Taylor, Winter, Walch, Rhodes, Steel, Shakspeare, Burns, Delaney. Ladies (Special Prizes) Roden, Henry.

Sunday evening: Gover, Henry, Winter, Fisher, Kirkbright, Tuxford, Rhodes, Blodwyn.

Frank Rhodes moved a warm vote of thanks to the Commandant, Matron, Mrs. Carter, and all the staff who made the week-end possible.

What good does this week-end do? It gives a fillip to the bridge players, and also provides an opportunity so beloved by the male sex, to get together in an all-male party for a couple of days; after that, the novelty seems to wear thin and there is a scamper home to the various "roosts," and one can almost imagine an apologetic crow.

A mental stimulant is a high priority essential, and bridge provides that stimulant. St. Dunstaners who have patiently acquired this bridge lore are to be congratulated, and this week-end would appear to be one of the rewards.

A. E. FIELD.

The Chess Contest

From November 14th to 17th, eleven men of St. Dunstan's met at West House for the purpose of indulging in a week-end of chess. This was the first time that such a thing had been done, and it proved to be a huge success. This week-end is to be a regular feature, and it is hoped that many more interested in the game will come forward to swell our numbers.

The main feature was the play for the Challenge Cup, presented by St. Dunstan's.

FIRST ROUND		Winner
Hill v. Porter		Hill
Vine v. Culshaw		Vine
Kirkbright v. Roden		Kirkbright
Byes: Hammett, Maskell, Tuxford, Scott, Parker.		
SECOND ROUND		
Tuxford v. Kirkbright		Kirkbright
Parker v. Hill		Hill
Hammett v. Vine		Vine
Maskell v. Scott		Maskell
SEMI-FINALS		
Kirkbright v. Hill		Kirkbright
Vine v. Maskell		Maskell
FINAL		Winner of Cup
Kirkbright v. Maskell		Maskell

This competition was played in the most sportsmanlike manner, and the final, I think all will agree, was quite outstanding. Both Kirkbright and the winner, Maskell, played wonderful chess. The Umpire said afterwards that he had no idea, until the last few moves, who would be the winner.

On Saturday afternoon, the Brighton Chess Club paid a visit to West House with a very strong team. The team included at least two County players. Their No. 1 also plays No. 1 for the County. Peter Maskell had to meet this giant of the game, and did exceptionally well to be one of the few winners on our side. This was a great achievement. Although we lost to Brighton, we can feel proud of the splendid show which two of our players put up against such strength. Full credit must also go to Hill for his victory over No. 4. Result: Brighton Club 9; St. Dunstan's 2.

Our last match was against the Schools League, and again we met with defeat, but not disgrace. Our opponents consisted of several County players, who proved themselves even stronger than the Brighton Chess Club. For instance, Maskell lost to their No. 1, a 17 year old Czech schoolboy. Kirkbright on No. 4 table was successful, and Hill on No. 3 gained $\frac{1}{2}$ point.

Our visiting teams were very well looked after, and in the speeches which followed tribute was paid to the staff of West House.

T. TUXFORD.

Greatheart and the World's Reply

It was not surprising to find that so few of the walking sticks had tidy ferrules. That had to be put right. I knew a shop at Brighton where sticks were re-ferruled reasonably and quickly. Off I marched with eight of them, of every breed, shape and fancy, bundled under an arm.

"Certainly," said the proprietor, "Come back in an hour and you shall have them."

I went into Lyons' to while away the time, hoping that Bill Girling's brothers would turn up to help me do it. None hove into view. An elderly man vacated a chair, and I seated myself in it; thus enthroned I awaited the advent of the waitress. Hooked across the back of the chair next to mine was a polished, mounted, banded walking stick. I fingered it and guessed that some absent-minded diner was the owner. Coffee, and cakes, I unhitched the stick, intending to leave it at the cash deck. I had travelled five paces when the old gentleman sidled up, touched my arm, and said, "It's funny you should occupy my chair when I left it to get a sugar basin from the table behind, and now you're going away with my walking stick. I've been watching you all the time." I was prodigal with apologies. People were milling into the shop, so it was impossible to explain matters. Deeply reddened, I passed out to the pavement. There was yet forty-five minutes to idle. This I wore down in a bradypodish amble. Promptly on time the walking-sticks were ready. With seven stowed snugly in the crook of my arm, and lightly swinging the eighth, I began the journey back to West House. While crossing Old Steine, I sat on a bench to tie a shoelace. "Hullo, again," said a voice close to my ear, rather sternly. It was the old gentleman who owned the walking stick. He tapped my welter of sticks and counted "two-four-eight . . .!!! You've had a very busy and a very successful hour, haven't you?" How profoundly happy I was to have time to explain! Too, I did enjoy his company as we trotted along to Kemp Town.

Southampton. W. E. BROOKES.

★ ★ ★

Bob Hope, the famous American radio and film star, gave his broadcast fee for Variety Bandbox on Sunday, November 23rd, to St. Dunstan's.

Braille Reading

Prizes for a Third Test

Two years ago, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, a scheme of prizes was announced, to be awarded to St. Dunstaners passing an Advanced Braille Reading Test. As a result of this scheme, some eighty St. Dunstaners of the first war entered and passed the test, and were awarded the special prize of £3. St. Dunstaners passing the test at the Training Centre receive their award automatically.

At the present time, therefore, we have two tests: (1) the Elementary Braille Reading Test, with a prize of £1; and (2) the Advanced Braille Reading Test, prize £3.

The Chairman has recently gone into the question of the possibility of a third Braille Reading Test, with a view to stimulating still further the interest in braille reading, and it has been decided to institute a third test, to be known as the Senior Braille Reading Test. The following suggestions have been put forward:

1. Three pages of interpoint to be read in 21 minutes.
2. Not more than six mistakes to be allowed in the test—a mistake afterwards corrected not to be counted.
3. No notice to be taken of a slight inaccuracy that does not interfere with the sense or continuity.
4. The passage to be taken from a Panda edition—an incident from a story or non-fiction book.
5. The passage selected to have continuity and not contain any difficulty unlikely to occur in general reading.

For this Senior Braille Reading Test the prize will be £5, with a consolation prize of £2 for a very near miss.

It is further suggested that any St. Dunstaner who has not passed the Advanced Braille Reading Test should be allowed to re-enter for the Elementary Braille Reading Test, even if he has passed it before, providing he has not done so in the last ten years. A prize of £1 to be awarded to successful candidates.

When a St. Dunstaner re-sits the Elementary Reading Test, and passes, it is hoped he will carry on with his reading and sit for the Advanced Braille Reading Test.

Arrangements will be made for these tests to be undertaken at Ovingdean or in London, the prizes, other than those given

for the Elementary Braille Reading Test, to be paid from the Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund, and known as the Arthur Pearson Prize.

St. Dunstaners wishing (a) to enter for the Senior Braille Reading Test, or (b) to re-enter for the Elementary Braille Reading Test, should send in their names to Mr. Mackay, Welfare Superintendent.

Blackpool Notes

November and early December are days of remembrance, and we, with the rest of Britain, observed November 9th. A party of six took part in the Parade to the Cenotaph, where W. Thomas, of Wakefield, placed the wreath of poppies. T. Vaughan, J. Power, and J. Salt, with two escorts, formed the rest of the party. In the evening a number attended Holy Trinity Church, from where the service was broadcast. We had much difficulty in repressing a desire to call out "Hello, St. Dunstaners, here's us!"

On December 9th we held our Service of Remembrance for our Founder. Old boys will remember, new ones ever feel grateful, for the wonderful example Sir Arthur set for us.

How quickly we pass from grave to gay. Christmas will be upon us very soon after these words come into print. May we, at the Blackpool Home, send our warmest greetings for Happy Christmas days to all the very large family of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners everywhere. It will be a wonderful time indeed at Blackpool.

The Ministry of Pensions staff is arranging a party for us—those in the home and local lads—on December 22nd. It will be held at one of the leading catering establishments; transport will be arranged, so we shall have the added fun of the coach drive, during which no doubt every man will aver his love of "Nelleeee Deeeenee."

Happy Christmas indeed—we all hope yours will be as happy. B.V.D.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Ethel Hill, Tideswell, on November 19th, to Michael G. James.

Florence Holmes, Witton Park, on October 25th.

Joy Evelyn Leeman, Louth, on November 10th, to Robert J. Darmon.

Hints for Escorts

My pal and I were sitting in the Lounge the other day when a Sister came up and asked us whether we would like a walk. We started out and she asked us at what pace we would like to go. I think it is always advisable to ask this question, as it makes it easier for all concerned. Cheerful conversation does add to the enjoyment of the walk, but so often escorts tend to be silent. A good way to begin the conversation is to discover the interests of the man.

We made our way towards Black Rock, at the east end of Brighton, and our escort described the scene about us, the beauty of the sunset, rising of the moon, and calmness of the sea, etc. Eventually we found ourselves on the cliff top, and it was a pleasure to be told about the old mill silhouetted against the evening sky, and the people passing by.

At a theatre, it adds greatly to our evening's enjoyment if we can have a description of the setting, even to the details of the heroine's clothes. This, of course, should be given before the play gets under way as, with too frequent remarks, we are apt to lose the thread of the story.

BILL GRIMWOOD (West House).

Sunset Over the Downs

*The gathering shadows of a summer night
Creating phantoms in the fading light;
The red and gold as the sun sinks low
Tinting the Downs with a crimson glow.
A picture painted by a Master Hand
With all the world at His command.
Across the sky creep streaks of grey
Heralding the end of another day.
Lights start twinkling in nearby towns
The sun sinks lower behind the Downs.
The crimson darkness deepens still
As the great Artist works His Will.
The sun sinks down below the West,
All Nature's creatures go to rest;
The stars come out to twinkle and to peep
On a world below that is fast asleep.
Dotted here and there like specks of gold
As His picture the Artist does unfold.
The moon comes up to dispel the night,
Shedding o'er the Downs her silver light,
Making new shadows, large and small,
As its light spreads over all.
And still the world and nature sleep
As the Master Hand makes His picture complete.*

Edinburgh.

T. C. McKAY.

To Manchester St. Dunstaners

Sam Russell, of Gorton, Manchester, like all St. Dunstaners, has received the greatest consideration from all members of railway staffs, and he has passed on to us a suggestion which, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Rose, Station Master at London Road, Manchester, station, will be helpful to men of Manchester travelling to London.

Normally, our Social Visitor gets in touch with the Station Master, but if this has not been possible, owing to the unexpectedness of the visit, the St. Dunstaner should go to the Enquiry Office at London Road (the same side as the booking office) two days or the day before he intends to travel and ask for Mr. Ash. He should then tell Mr. Ash the date and time he and his escort will be travelling, and Mr. Ash will see that seats have been reserved for them. On the day they travel they should make themselves known to the ticket collector at the barrier, who will find their seats for them.

Mr. S. W. Fobbs

St. Dunstaners will hear with the deepest regret that Mr. S. W. Fobbs died in hospital on December 10th. Mr. Fobbs retired from St. Dunstan's service nine months ago after twenty-eight years with us, for many years as Chief Accountant.

The funeral took place at Banstead Parish Church, St. Dunstan's being represented by Mr. W. G. Askew, Mr. P. Lale, and Miss M. Sailing. There were wreaths of poppies from St. Dunstan's and the British Legion, which was also represented at the funeral.

Tailpiece

George Reed, of Hertford, was filmed by Pathe Pictorial while training with his guide dog, at Leamington, and the film is to be shown at all A.B.C. cinemas some time in January. Telling us of this, George adds a story which will appeal to all guide dog owners.

"I was travelling home in the train during the rush-hour," he said, "the train was crowded and several men and women were standing, but on seeing my dog and myself a gentleman got up and offered his seat to my dog, which was accepted with gratitude, as it prevented his paws from being trodden on. It only goes to show that the age of chivalry is not past." George assures us that this story is authentic.

“ In Memory ”

Corporal Kenneth Roy Clark, *Australian Infantry*

We have heard with deep regret from Mr. Archer of the Blinded Soldiers' Association, Australia, of the death on July 28th of a new war St. Dunstaner, K. R. Clark, of Malvern, Victoria.

He leaves a young widow, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

Private James Carwardine, *Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard also with deep regret from Mr. Archer of the death of a St. Dunstaner of the 1914-1918 war, J. Carwardine, of Victoria, Australia. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in 1933. He had suffered poor health for some years and he passed away on September 5th, leaving a widow to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

Sapper Walter William Bowerman, *Royal Engineers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of a St. Dunstaner of the recent war, W. W. Bowerman, of Kensal Green, who came to us in August, 1943.

He was wounded by the explosion of a mine while serving at the Battle of the Mareth Line. He lost his sight and received injuries to his left hand, while injuries to his ears also caused deafness, but he was very persevering and in spite of these handicaps, mastered his craft, joinery.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and child.

He was buried in the plot in Brighton Cemetery set aside for St. Dunstan's men; many St. Dunstan's comrades were present.

Harry Brown, *Queen's Own Camerons*

With deep regret we record the death of H. Brown, of Peterborough.

Although he received injuries from mustard gas in the 1914-1918 war, he did not come to us until quite recently and his training had not begun when his death from pneumonia occurred.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

William Chambers, *1st East Lancashire Regt. and Royal Engineers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Chambers, of Northenden, Manchester, on November 13th.

His sight failed while he was serving in the Dardanelles, and he came to us in December, 1916. He trained as a picture-frame maker, and he continued with this work for a number of years. Towards the end of 1939, however, his health began to fail and although he continued with his work for a while he eventually had to give it up. He passed away in hospital, where he had been admitted only a few hours before.

A wreath was sent for the funeral from Sir Ian Fraser, and his coffin was covered with the Union Jack. Mr. and Mrs. Joyce were among those present.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and children.

Births

BRERETON. On November 15th, to the wife of G. Brereton, of Derby, a daughter—Lorraine Susan.

COWAN. On December 12th, to the wife of J. C. Cowan, of Leicester, a daughter—Linda.

DABORN. On November 23rd, to the wife of J. T. Daborn, of Bexleyheath, a daughter—June Angela.

EARNSHAW. On November 19th, to the wife of H. Earnshaw, of Bolton, a son—Ian Michael.

FREER. On October 23rd, to the wife of R. Freer, of Gravesend, a son—David Arthur.

GREEN. On December 5th, to the wife of F. L. Green, of Fareham, a daughter—Rosemary.

HANCOCK. On November 20th, to the wife of J. Hancock, of Chelmsford, a son—Philip John.

HOLLAMBY. On November 8th, to the wife of L. Hollamby, of Oldham, a daughter—Kathleen.

INNESS. On October 21st, to the wife of J. Inness, of Barnstaple, a son—Raymond Malcolm.

MILLER. On July 23rd, to the wife of E. Miller, of Wimbledon (trainee), a daughter—Susan Edwina.

NORTHWOOD. On October 25th, to the wife of L. Northwood, of Plympton, a daughter—Lesley Denise.

SUTTON. On November 17th, to the wife of P. Sutton, of Manchester, a son—Kevin Daniel.

VARLEY. On November 21st, to the wife of E. Varley, of Erdington, Birmingham, a son—Raymond Francis.

Death

GREEN. Our deep sympathy is extended to F. L. Green, of Fareham, whose mother passed away on November 20th at the age of eighty-seven.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 346—VOLUME XXXI [NEW SERIES]

JANUARY, 1948

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

THE NEW YEAR HONOURS Ex-Servicemen Represented

CAPTAIN William Appleby, who was probably the first Great War disabled veteran to take his place as a leader of the ex-Servicemen's Movement, received an O.B.E. (Civil Division) in the New Year Honours. Captain Appleby has been a member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion since its inception. He was, in fact, the founder of the Comrades of the Great War, an organisation which was later merged with other ex-Service bodies to form the British Legion. Captain Appleby was blinded in July, 1915, while serving with the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers, and has represented the British Legion on St. Dunstan's Executive Council for many years.

Another honour which will give immense pleasure to all St. Dunstaners is the award of the M.B.E. to Mr. Leslie Banks, Pensions Officer at St. Dunstan's since 1932. Mr. Banks served in the London Rifle Brigade in the 1914—1918 war, and was severely wounded. He joined the staff of St. Dunstan's in 1917 and in his capacity of Pensions Officer has had charge of all details relating to the claiming and administering of pensions for blinded men and women of both wars, and has supervised the great amount of work involved in the very substantial payments which we make on behalf of the Ministry of Pensions. He has rendered personal service to practically all the St. Dunstaners of both wars and in the recent war he has been in close personal touch with all the newly blinded men and women and has done much to help them.

Amongst others who were honoured is Mrs. Newton Driver (M.B.E.), whose name will be known to so many ex-Servicemen from overseas, and to many disabled men who took advantage of the hospitality of her English-Speaking Officers' Club in London.

Mr. A. Baxter, the founder and national President of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, received the O.B.E.

Mr. Sydney Parsons

The sad news reached us this month of the death of Mr. Sydney Parsons, one of St. Dunstan's oldest friends.

Mr. Parsons has been connected with our men's sports since the last war. He was a familiar figure at practically all our sporting events. He would act as a judge at a road walk, general sports day, or regatta, but he gave us valuable help in numberless other ways. It was his proud record that he did not miss one of our Road Walks.

His last wish was that a donation should go to St. Dunstan's, instead of flowers at his funeral. In sending this, his office colleagues at the Ministry of Supply wrote: "Mr. Parsons had many interests but none was dearer to him than that of the men of St. Dunstan's."

Mr. Parsons died at University College Hospital on December 19th. Although few knew of his illness, St. Dunstaners N. Downs, Ron Phillips and Tommy Milligan visited him there, to his great pleasure.

The Grange, South Mimms

There were festive scenes at The Grange, South Mimms, on December 18th—the end of the Christmas term—when a party was held at the Training Farm before the trainees went home for the holiday. Wives were asked to come along too, an invitation which was most popular, since many were seeing The Grange for the first time.

A large Christmas Tree provided a gift for everybody, and everybody, too shared in the contents of a wonderful food parcel which had been sent from South America. This, again, was a particular pleasure to the wives.

A running buffet—splendidly organised by Mr. J. A. Roney, Superintendent, aided by his wife and the staff—provided some wonderful refreshments. Games, singing and dancing kept the party going at a high level. It was a tremendous success.

Among the guests were Mr. A. Mackay, Welfare Superintendent, and Mrs. Mackay, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Ferguson, and Mr. George, our Joinery Instructor, who visits the Farm, and Mrs. George.

Mr. Percy L. Way Retires

Mr. Percy L. Way, for thirty-one years Principal of the National Institute for the Blind School of Physiotherapy, has retired, and on December 5th, at St. Dunstan's Headquarters, S. C. Tarry, of Wansdworth, on behalf of St. Dunstan's physiotherapists, presented him with a cheque as a mark of their deep esteem and affection of the men of two wars whom Mr. Way had trained in physiotherapy. Sir Ian Fraser also presented him with a cheque as a token of admiration and gratitude for all he had done for St. Dunstaners during the time he had been Principal of the School.

Placements

Alfred Snook, Bristol, in a shop ; D. Atkins, Hemel Hempstead, as a capstan operator with Messrs. Scientific Projections, Ltd., S.E.3 ; N. Crane, Warrington, as an upholsterer with Mr. C. V. Jones, Warrington ; L. Trevelion, in a shop at Margate ; D. Giffard, in a shop at St. Leonard's ; Sam Moore, Plumstead, as a capstan operator with Messrs. Fry's (London), Ltd.

News In Brief

Leslie Shorter and his wife concluded their honeymoon in auspicious style when they were among the guests of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh at an afternoon garden party.

★ ★ ★

H. White, of Stalybridge, is a very busy man indeed—on his board, by day, and with his Council work nearly every evening.

★ ★ ★

W. E. Brooke's volume of short stories, to which we referred last month, will be issued by the National Library under the title of *The Puncher, and other stories*.

★ ★ ★

Wilfred Pickles sent a Christmas card to all St. Dunstaners who have "Had a Go" in his popular radio feature.

★ ★ ★

The National Institute for the Blind has announced that a braille newspaper for the deaf-blind is to be published in Britain in 1948.

★ ★ ★

Charles Negus, won the Wellingborough Pensioners' Social Club dominoes championship, beating everyone, including the president.

★ ★ ★

F. A. E. Hawes, of Swindon, who is an assembler at E. K. Cole, Ltd., has started a Works Magazine which he edits, and he represents his firm on the Swindon Committee of Industrial Relations. He is also one of the foremost members of a Discussion Group which has just been formed at the Works.

★ ★ ★

Billy Biggs, of Leicester, is retiring from his role of voluntary organiser for St. Dunstan's. With the presentation of a cheque for £112 from Saffron Lane Working Men's Club on December 8th, his total collections have reached £10,000.

★ ★ ★

E. Woofenden, who is doing a splendid job on assembly at the Farad Works, Leicester, was written up by local newspaper men and his story was broadcast on Midland Regional.

★ ★ ★

J. Wood, of Grange-over-Sands, gained four prizes for vegetables and flowers at Grange-over-Sands Chrysanthemum Show.

Wanted

ELECTRIC RAZOR wanted. Warren, 24 Overton Drive, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

News from South Africa

Mrs. E. M. Chadwick Bates, O.B.E., made her annual visit to Pretoria on December 4th and it synchronised with the visit of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery to the Administrative Capital of the Union.

Mrs. Bates celebrated her visit by entertaining St. Dunstaners Denny and Higgo and their wives to dinner at Polley's Hotel, Pretoria. Mrs. Kathleen D. Battle, who has done such wonderful work for St. Dunstan's in Pretoria during the past twenty-five years, was a guest.

Denny and Higgo are the only two St. Dunstaners in Pretoria and always look forward with pleasure to visits from Mrs. Bates which, of necessity, are so few and far between, as her Headquarters are at Cape Town, one thousand miles distant. Field Marshal Lord Montgomery received a wonderful reception in South Africa and many St. Dunstaners were presented to him.

E.D.

Extract from the "Umtali Advertiser," S. Rhodesia, December 23rd (sent to us by Mrs. H. J. Hutcheon):

For two years, "Bill," an African grey parrot with a fiery red tail and a vocabulary of 700 words, not all polite, has been the inseparable friend of Mr. R. W. Bowen, the blind Cape Town M.P. He was given the freedom of his master's house and gardens and, because of his clipped wings, could wander where he wished.

But one day recently, Bill found his wings had grown. He gave them a preliminary flap. To his surprise he found himself "airborne." After a trial spin round the garden, he decided to make a longer "recce" and so without benefit of weather reports, wind velocities, etc., Bill took off.

How far and how long Bill flew no one knows, but four days later a woman resident in Three Anchor Bay, three and a half miles away, heard someone screeching, "Pineapples, tomatoes, very cheap, lady. Don't buy from the other chap, he's a crook."

She went to see, but instead of a hawker there was Bill, waddling down the street. She recognised him as the bird for whose recovery Advocate Bowen had offered a £25 reward.

Bill "came quietly." He was obviously tired of fending for himself. There was a joyful scene when bird and master were re-united. "Vote for Bowen, hurrah,

hurrah—What a naughty boy you are," Bill screamed, and scampered madly in his box when he saw his master. He did not even "cuss" once when his wings were clipped as he was hauled out.

Mean Thefts

Two St. Dunstaners have been concerned lately in mean thefts.

Poultry farmers in particular will sympathise with William Young, of High Spen, Co. Durham, who was robbed of fifty-eight pullets out of his stock of three hundred birds. A gang of poultry thieves is suspected.

George Shed, who has a shop at Hurstpierpoint, was luckier, thanks to his own quick-thinking. After serving a customer, he went to put the money in the till when he heard a movement. He put out his hand and caught the arm of a 14 year old boy who was in the act of taking some cigarettes. The boy has since been ordered to an approved school—it was his third offence.

Talking Book Catalogue in Braille

The Talking Book Catalogue is now available in braille, price sixpence, and can be obtained from Miss Ashton, Talking Book Library, 12 Oval Road, Camden Town, London, N.W.1.

Thirty Years Ago

From "St. Dunstan's Review," January, 1918:

"The production of the St. Dunstan's Revue, "Dispensary Boys," in the Marylebone Lounge of the College on December 11th, was such an unqualified success that it is to be repeated twice in January, and will visit several of the London Hospitals. The Revue, the first scene of which was laid in a hospital ward "somewhere in Chelsea," contained representations of all the best known St. Dunstan's people who work down there. A. Smith made a very realistic "Mrs. Lipscomb." Sergt. Thornton as "Miss Preston" caused much amusement by his manner of reading the newspaper, while Miss Saunders and Rowley, in other well-known characters, were excellent. The Hospital Visitors, represented by Colling and Miss Thellusson, were very laughable, and Hamilton as the "Cuckoo," a doubtful St. Dunstan's case in bed, showed that he is a real comedian. Other characters were played by Messrs. Corboy, Housden, Blancy, Twigg as patients, and various sisters of the College in other characters."

Letters to the Editor

THE EDITOR,
DEAR SIR,

I was interested in the letter in your November issue about a climbing holiday in the Lake District. I have not been to the Lakes, but have spent a similar holiday which I thought might interest your correspondent. Whilst visiting my wife's home in Western Canada this summer, we were lucky enough to be able to spend three weeks in the Rocky Mountains. We did a lot of walking and quite a bit of climbing, and my experiences were very similar to those of your correspondent. The climbing was, of course, slower, but not much more difficult than for the rest of the party. I was particularly struck by the impression that I was able to make of the scenery. By listening to my companions describe various views, and by the feel of the moss over which we were walking and the smell of the pines or the noise of the rushing mountain stream and the cry of a wild animal, I found that I was able to get a very vivid picture of my surroundings.

Your correspondent's enquiry about places to stay has prompted me to write this letter. We stayed at a Youth Hostel, and I thoroughly recommend this to any other St. Dunstaners who are interested in a walking or tandem holiday. One has to be a member of the Hostelling Association to be able to stay at one of their hostels, but there is only a charge of 1s. 3d. a night for a bed. One has to do one's own cooking, but this is no difficulty if one goes with a party. The Y.H.A. is an international organisation, and therefore provides a means of travelling abroad at a cost which is at least worth considering.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL NORMAN.

Cambridge.

THE EDITOR,
DEAR SIR,

Whilst visiting Brighton shortly before Christmas my wife had the misfortune to have her handbag stolen. Amongst other articles in the bag was a copy of the programme of a play we had recently seen. The title of the play was "Outrageous Fortune."

Yours faithfully,
Uxbridge. LESLIE A. WEBBER.

Letters to the Editor

THE EDITOR,
DEAR SIR,

Having received a visit from a burglar, I thought the knowledge gained from the experience might be worth passing on to other members of our family of St. Dunstaners. The object lesson learned may serve some of the older members, who, like myself, have been married some years, yet may also prove useful to some of our younger members.

We who have been insured for years have, I think, been very similar in habit; just paying the premium and letting it go at that; ignoring the fact that our homes have gained in value over the passage of years, particularly with present day costs of replacement. I valued my household effects in 1930, paid the charges, and in 1944 increased my premium on valuation, but not enough. Now I anticipate not receiving the full amount lost.

I therefore do most seriously ask my colleagues to look into things and if they are not fully covered, then to have things readjusted to make sure that if they suffer from the activities of marauders, they will not suffer financially.

Just one word more. When we leave St. Dunstan's, we have a typewriter, a radio and a Stainsby; even if they are on life loan, they are still our responsibility and should we lose them, we are morally bound to do our best to replace them.

I would point out that the visits of the intruders do not take long, so make sure the house is secure, even if it will be only left unoccupied for an hour. The job at my own home took place within a known time of three quarters of an hour.

Yours sincerely,
Tottenham, N.17. JOHN A. MUDGE.

(This is excellent advice and in fact, applies to loss by fire as well as by burglary. Mr. Lale, at Headquarters, is our Insurance expert, and he is always ready to give advice to St. Dunstaners in such matters and to arrange insurance policies for those who ask him to do so.—ED.).

"E.K."

Mr. Ernest Kessell was a recent visitor to Park Crescent. Many St. Dunstaners met him at the London Reunion. He is trying to make us believe that he celebrates his 80th birthday next month. He looks a young sixty.

West House Notes

Heigh ho; heigh ho; and off to play we go! From the beginning of September we look forward to Christmas with mounting excitement, and events came one after the other.

On December 7th we held a Memorial Service to our Founder, at which Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Sir Neville Pearson were present. Sir Neville read the Lesson. Our St. Dunstaner, Charlie Thomas, sang solos and later a duet with his daughter, Brenda, who was also his accompanist. The address, a tribute to Sir Arthur, was given by Jock Boyd; he made a moving speech and spoke with great feeling, echoing the thoughts of all St. Dunstaners of both wars.

The first big occasion to remind us that the festive season was on its way was the annual dinner given by the Grocers Federation, and knowing the lavish hospitality accorded by our loyal friends, the Grocers, this evening drew an all time record crowd. Some 470 St. Dunstaners, Staff and friends sat down in relays to an excellent dinner, and afterwards enjoyed the dancing and games. The speeches were brief, but nevertheless there were expressions of warm-hearted friendship on the part of the Federation and deep gratitude and appreciation on the part of St. Dunstan's. We were honoured with the presence of the Mayors of Brighton and Hove, the President of the National Federation of Grocers, who expressed greetings from members of the Association all over the country, and our own President, Sir Neville Pearson, who, in a fine speech, thanked the Federation on behalf of St. Dunstaners, spoke of the great debt of gratitude which St. Dunstan's owed to the Association for their generosity and lasting friendship over the long years. Our thanks were reiterated by Matron Ouseley, Commandants Dacre and Fawcett, and our own Jack Boyd.

Another dinner and grand party was given at the Belvedere Hotel by the management. Fifteen St. Dunstaners, escorted by members of the Staff, enjoyed a good dinner, darts and dominoes competitions and a jolly evening was rounded off with a sing-song round the piano. Incidentally, I think our hosts were rather amazed at the skill of some of our darts players.

The trainees at Ovingdean sent us an

invitation to their End of Term Dance, and at our own dance, on the last Friday evening before Christmas, some fifty young ladies from the Brighton Training College gave us half an hour of really delightful carol singing. We were also entertained on December 21st by a programme of carols, arranged on this occasion by Rodney White.

The Christmas programme commenced on the 23rd with an excellent play-reading, given by the Staff. "The Butler Walks" was unique in as much as it was written by one of our own fellows, W. Muggeridge, of Hayes, Middlesex. We congratulate him on a thrilling story, and the players on their really professional performance.

Christmas Eve brought our old friends, Jack Sullivan and Mr. and Mrs. Barnard, who came to entertain us. The programme included carols rendered by Miss Catherine Ramsden, Matron and Miss Meldrum. This was all very good practice for our own very important Carol Broadcast on Christmas Day.

Christmas morning found everyone spruced up in their Sunday best, and returning handshakes from all sides. In place of the usual morning coffee, we sipped a glass of port, supplied by our friends of the Grocers' Association, and awaited the arrival of Santa Claus, complete with red coat and white beard. He made an exciting entrance in the Conservatory, riding a real sledge loaded with presents and a surprise in the form of a real Christmas Fairy, with wings and wand, in the person of little Susan Fawcett, aged 3½ years. It was a great thrill for her to be a fairy, and we could tell by the delight in her voice as she handed us our presents how much she enjoyed it all—even though she could not quite make up her mind whether or not Santa Claus was her daddy. Eager fingers undid the parcels to find a collection of most useful gifts. It goes without saying that no one was late for dinner, a good old-fashioned Christmas dinner of turkey, Christmas pudding (no one swallowed the silver coin in each piece), mince pies and, of course, Christmas crackers. The toasts were drunk in a glass of West House punch. Telegrams and messages of greetings were so numerous that Commandant and Matron took it in turn to read them out. They included a telegram from Sir Neville and one from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser.

The important part of the evening was, of course, "West House on the Air." This half hour of carol-singing, broadcast on the Light Programme of the B.B.C., went off without a single "technical hitch." Solos were sung by Miss Catherine Ramsden, who often sings for us in our Chapel, and Harry Costigan. Miss Ramsden chose "Silent Night, Holy Night," and Harry Costigan, accompanied by Orderly George Ball, L.R.A.M., together more than did justice to the beautiful song "Nazareth." It was gratifying to know that 'phone calls and messages of congratulation came pouring in as soon as the broadcast was finished. When the red light was out, and the tension over, on with the party again, with fun and games until midnight, and so to bed, feeling very tired, but happy.

The Saturday evening following Christmas found the Lounge and Conservatory full of all kinds of weird and wonderful apparitions. This was our Fancy Dress Ball. The costumes were good, both from an original point of view and that of pretty design. The winner of the men's section was Ernie Deaville, whose massive frame looked too cute for words in a frilly skirt, with his tiny bow and arrow and a star on his forehead—he was unmistakably Cupid. Harry Costigan took second prize as a surgeon (equipped with some gruesome-looking hammers and saws). The third went to Percy Ashton, who was the last word in "Spivs."

We were all in the party mood by Sunday evening, and thoroughly enjoyed a very excellent Show put on by the Staff, entitled "Ousel's Odd Bodds." Whether it was gentle digs at the Staff and Men, or songs old and new, the whole programme went with a swing, and we offered a vote of thanks to those sporting members of the Staff who took part.

The next few days saw a steady but unobtrusive influx of Scotsmen—the gathering of the Clans to celebrate Hogmanay and on New Year's Eve, as we said goodbye to the old year with high spirited revelry. Did we say spirited? During the evening there were high jinks—particularly when we had competitions in the Hokey-Cokey and Jitterbug, and the Highland Fling brought forth barbaric noises from the throats of every Scot present. The impromptu Romeo and Juliet scene, enacted when Matron tried to bamboozle Jim Ellis

into thinking she was an amorous maid from the Servery was a case of the joke being on the joker, because Jim really led Matron up the garden path!

Merriment was at its height when we stood round with our goblets charged with rum punch, waiting to drink in the New Year, and so ended another year at West House, crammed full of so many happy memories for hundreds of St. Dunstaners all over the country.

It would be criminal neglect, although space is so limited, not to mention our Christmas decorations, and the good people who put in so much work on them. The centre piece in the conservatory was the Lounge Sister's Office, which grew a thatch overnight and took on the appearance of a village pub, complete with a sign proclaiming that "Bunny's Arms" was open to all. The pub was complete in every detail, except that there was NO BEER—but it is safe to assume that most whistles were whetted before the parties began.

This lovely Christmas and New Year meant lots of hard work and organising on the part of the Commandant, Matron, and every one of the Staff, and we have no doubt they were all thoroughly exhausted when it was over, and we do thank them most sincerely for giving us such a lovely time. There are several others who did Trojan work too. Miss Pooley, who, together with Mrs. Hillman, wrapped all our Christmas parcels, Mrs. Brodie, and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, who worked so strenuously to provide us all with just the right costume for the Fancy Dress Ball. To them and all the other friends we have made at Brighton we should like to send our greetings for a happy New Year. J. E.

★ ★ ★

Matron Ouseley wishes to thank all St. Dunstaners who sent her such lovely Christmas cards.

★ ★ ★

Low-down!

To be sung to the tune of "Tennessee."

The carpets on the floor
Make us love Matron more.
We hear Commandant say
Don't take them rugs away
When you go back, when you go back
From your hol-hol-holiday!

"POP" HUMPHREYS.

Prize Winners**Whist—**

1st Resident Gentleman, Garrity ;
1st Guest Gentleman, Walch.

1st Lady, Rouse (playing as Lady); 2nd
Lady, Mrs. Davies.

Booby, Gentleman, Bob Young; Lady,
Mrs. Van.

Dominoes—

Guest, 1st James ; 2nd Frank.

Marker, Miss Westwood.

Resident—Orrell, Waddell, Wise, all tied
and shared prize.

Marker, Miss Parkington.

Fancy Dress—

(Judged by Mrs. Pratt and Mrs. Lacey).

1st Men, Ernest Deaville, Cupid; 2nd
Men, Harry Costigan, Surgeon; Three
Chair cases, Tommy Tuxford, Baby; Jock
Boyd, Sailor Boy; Jim Fay, Ghost of West
House.

Escorts—

Mrs. Austin, Indian Squaw; Diana
Carter, Jane Austen.

Judged by Mrs. Jock Boyd and Mrs.
Frank Braithwaite.

Staff, representing Books—

Sister Harvey, Just William; Sister
Bradley, Black Narcissus.

Prizes presented by Mrs. Malone.

Mrs. Brodie and Mrs. Taylor were
presented with a tray and basket by Cupid,
with our thanks for collecting Fancy
Dresses.

To North with Amputations

No doubt the majority of St. Dunstaners
are aware that, in certain circumstances,
supplementary clothing coupons are avail-
able, but for those who are unaware of the
regulation it should be explained that
disabled persons, subject to excessive wear
and tear of clothing arising from the use of
artificial limbs, are entitled to receive an
issue of supplementary clothing coupons.
Applications should be addressed to: The
Board of Trade, I.M., Department 2,
91 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, and
such application should be renewed annually.

Should there be any difficulty in obtaining
these coupons, Mr. Banks at Ovingdean will
be only too pleased to assist.

Ovingdean Notes

This month at Ovingdean seems to have
consisted of a series of parties.

On Wednesday, December 3rd, the
Lancastrian Club held a dance at the Royal
Pavilion and invited a party of our Lanca-
shire trainees. It was a very jolly reunion
for many of our men had attended similar
functions held by this Club.

The Grocers' Association gave their
Christmas Dinner and Dance on December
10th. It was the highlight of this term's
outside entertainment. Everyone looked
forward to it and, after a very excellent
dinner, found their way as quickly as
possible to the Ballroom, to dance until the
party broke up at 11 o'clock.

The Girls' Training College gave their
end-of-term Dance on the 15th, and a very
pleasant evening was spent by a party of our
trainees.

In spite of these gay times, much work
has been done, and those who wished were
able to attend a series of very interesting
and informative lectures.

The St. Dunstan's Choir gave us an
excellent Concert on December 16th.

The term ended on a very festive note
with our Dinner and Dance on December
17th. We were very pleased to have with
us on this occasion our new President,
Sir Neville Pearson. Votes of thanks
were passed to those who had worked so
untiringly to provide such a really good
dinner, and decorate the room so gaily.
The dance will long be remembered with
its novelty numbers and spot prizes.

We should like to send our hearty good
wishes to the trainees and staff who have
left us this term.

National Laying Test**Report for the second month from
November 10th to December 7th**

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Clarke, T. ...	169
2	MacIntosh, Charles ...	136
3	Chaffin, A. ...	127
4	Fisher, T. M. ...	126
5	Jarvis, A. ...	120
6	Woodcock, W. J. ...	114
7	Smith, W. Alan ...	74
8	Holmes, Percy ...	64
9	Jackson, George C. ...	61
10	Gregory, T. ...	34
Average per bird to date, 17.72.		

“ In Memory ”

A.B. Victor Augustus Cooper, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

With deep regret we record the death of V. A. Cooper, of Southwick. He served for five years in the 1914—1918 war and came to St. Dunstan's in 1936, when he was trained as a netter. He had, however, been ill for a long time, and he passed away in hospital on December 12th. Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and two young children.

Private Matthew Oldroyd, 9th Yorks and Lancs. Regt.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of M. Oldroyd, of Coldnorton. Wounded at Messines in 1917 where, in addition to his loss of sight he also lost a leg, he came to St. Dunstan's the following year and was trained as a netter. He passed away on January 19th. Our deep sympathy is extended to his sister, with whom he lived.

Births

ASHBY.—On January 1st, to the wife of E. Ashby, of Coventry, a daughter—Jane.

COOKE.—On January 11th, to the wife of G. W. Cooke, of Stoke-on-Trent, a son—John Edward.

CORRIGAN.—On January 11th, to the wife of J. Corrigan, of Leeds, a daughter.

WATKINS.—On December 1st, to the wife of D. L. Watkins, of Durban, South Africa, a son—Christopher James.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

MORGAN.—To A. Morgan, of Tanghall Estate, York, who lost his wife on January 13th.

RYAN.—To J. Ryan, of Forest Gate, whose wife passed away on December 23rd.

Marriages

DOWNWARD.—On December 23rd, H. Downward, of Edinburgh, to Miss Jean Moira Ross.

POTTS.—On December 23rd, H. Potts, of Whitwell-on-the-Hill, to Miss Jackson.

TAYLOR.—On January 10th, J. Taylor, of Eccles, to Miss Mabel Cawthorne.

Grandfathers

D. Murphy, Glasgow ; W. Samworth, Edgware.

Golden Wedding

Our warmest good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. J. Brockerton, of Coleraine, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on December 31st.

Unfortunately, our St. Dunstaner was taken ill on the day on which it was celebrated and is still seriously ill. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Young St. Dunstaners

J. R. Brown's son is playing football for Nuneaton and District Boys in the English Schools Shield (Fourth Divisional Round).

The son of A. Williams, of Chepstow, has been mentioned in despatches while serving in Burma.

Arthur Weedall has qualified for the Ministry of Civil Aviation Radio Officer's licence and has taken up flying duties.

Marriages

Daniel McCarthy (Fordingbridge) to Miss Evelyn Angel on August 16th.

Arthur Charles Horsnell, Charlton Adam, on December 27th, to Miss Peggy Eileen Vowles.

On January 17th, Sergt. W. Dimond (East Grinstead) to Miss Norma Wakerall.

Sweet Sixteen

A Cockney Sketch

*I've put 'is photo on the mantelpiece ;
Mum said I could, and she's a judge of men.
Eric's 'is name, I fell for 'im at 'iss,
An' I'll never, never fall in love 'iss.*

*Eric! Oh, Eric's sich a lovely name,
An' 'e looks so nice stuck on the mantelpiece ;
Mum seems to like 'im just the same as me.
I wonder why? . . . 'Tain't orfen she agrees.*

*As for my last boy, Bert . . . 'is photo's gone
Down on the dustbin where the rubbish is ;
Mum said that was the properest place for 'im,
'Cos she never could abide 'is ugly phiz.*

*But Eric's photo's on the mantelpiece,
The place of honour, 'cos 'e's nice and good.
I'm going to marry Eric by and by,
I loves 'im so . . . 'cos why? . . . Mum said I
could.*

R. J. VINE.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 347—VOLUME XXXI [NEW SERIES]

FEBRUARY, 1948

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

Princess Elizabeth's Gifts

AMONG the wedding gifts to Princess Elizabeth was one of a sum of money which Her Royal Highness graciously decided to devote to the purchase of a Guide Dog for a blinded ex-Serviceman. Captain N. Liakhoff, Director of the famous Guide Dog Training Centre at Leamington, was consulted, and on February 11th, at Buckingham Palace, ex-Sergt. Dan Pretorius, formerly of the South African Training Corps, who has just completed his physiotherapy training at St. Dunstan's, was presented by Her Royal Highness with a sable coloured Alsatian, "Nell."

Dan and Mrs. Pretorius return to South Africa on February 26th, taking Nell with them. She will be the first trained guide dog to work in South Africa. Our best wishes will go with them.

Princess Elizabeth has also sent to St. Dunstan's a cheque for £36, which she has received as a wedding gift from the citizens of Grahamstown, South Africa. It was sent with her best wishes.

Northgate House

On Thursday, January 22nd, Air Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders, Air Member for Personnel, and Member of the Air Council, visited Northgate House, Rottingdean, and formally opened it as St. Dunstan's Children's Holiday Home. He unveiled a plaque, which read:—

"Northgate House, Rottingdean. St. Dunstan's Children's Holiday and Convalescent Home, opened by Air Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., D.F.C., M.M., on January 22nd, 1948. This Home has been endowed by a fund generously raised in the year 1946 by the Royal Air Force."

Sir Hugh Saunders expressed the pleasure and satisfaction it gave the R.A.F. to have been the means of making such a gift towards the work of St. Dunstan's.

The Home is already in use and there were a number of small guests present to greet Sir Hugh and Lady Saunders. Their obvious happiness and delight in their surroundings could not have expressed better the usefulness of this generous gift of the R.A.F. to St. Dunstan's men.

Decorations

In the November issue of the REVIEW, St. Dunstaners of both wars who had been decorated for gallantry, or who had received any other military or civilian awards, or the relatives of St. Dunstaners who had died, were asked to send in their names so that appropriate honours boards might be compiled, to be placed at the Training Centre, Ovingdean, and in London.

A number of names have already come in, but if there are any still to come they should be sent to Mr. Askew's office before March 31st, that is, before Easter.

Pension Allowances for Adopted Children

The Minister of Pensions has now agreed that, as from the first pay-day in February, his Ministry will recognise for Pension purposes a legally adopted child, irrespective of the date of adoption by the disabled man, and a step-child, irrespective of the date on which the disabled man married the child's mother.

If any St. Dunstaner has a legally adopted child, or is maintaining a step-child and is not already receiving an Allowance from the Ministry of Pensions for that child, he should send full details to Mr. Rice, at Headquarters, in order that the necessary application may be made to the Ministry.

W. ASKEW.

General Service Medal (Palestinian Service)

The Government have decided to recognise the hardships and dangers which have accompanied duty in Palestine subsequent to the war by the award of the two current General Service Medals, each with the appropriate clasp for service in Palestine and the waters adjoining, since September 27th, 1945.

The general service qualification for the Army is entry into operations in Palestine whilst on the posted strength of a Unit for one day or more, and for the Royal Navy the qualification is a total of twenty-eight days in ships employed on the Palestine patrol against illegal immigration.

The award for serving soldiers or sailors will be dealt with through the normal Service channels. Soldiers released or transferred to the Army Reserve and legatees or the next of kin of those deceased must apply to the Officer I-C Records of the Regiment or Corps in which the last period of Army Service was rendered.

The manufacture and the issue of the Medals and Clasps will be undertaken when circumstances permit. The ribbon will be issued as soon as supplies become available.

92nd General Hospital, Naples

Colonel Rycroft wants to arrange a reunion for all new war St. Dunstaners who were with him in the 92nd General Hospital, Eye Section, at Naples.

Will those who would be interested in such a Reunion send in their names to H. W. (Bunny) Greatrex, Kumasi, Longhill Road, Ovingdean, Sussex.

National Insurance Retirement Pensions

Under the first set of regulations issued by the Minister of National Insurance, all those Old Age Pensioners who are at present in receipt of the Retirement Pension of 26s. a week will be entitled, on the 5th July next, the date when the Insurance Act comes into full operation, to an additional 16s. a week if they have living with them a dependent wife who is under the age of sixty.

Until further regulations have been made it is not known whether those St. Dunstaners who are in receipt of the Retirement Pension and are already in receipt of an Allowance for their wives from the Ministry of Pensions will be entitled to the full 16s. from the Ministry of National Insurance, or whether there will, because of the overlapping, be some reduction in the 16s. or in the Allowance from the Ministry of Pensions.

Those St. Dunstaners, however, who are now receiving the 26s. a week Retirement Pension and have a dependent wife under the age of sixty, should submit claims for the additional 16s. a week on Form TS. 2, obtainable from the Office of the Local Assistance Board. Those St. Dunstaners who are in receipt of the Retirement Pension of 26s. a week and have a dependent wife over the age of sixty will be already receiving the 16s. and should not apply.

If a St. Dunstaner has any difficulty in completing the Form, or is in need of advice, he should write to Mr. Rice, at Headquarters, with full details. W. ASKEW.

The Reader's Digest

The staff of the Reader's Digest Association in London are most generously collecting a sum of money to provide copies of the braille edition of the "Digest" for a number of St. Dunstaners during the next few months.

Only a very limited number of copies will become available from time to time, but St. Dunstaners who would be interested in receiving it are invited to send in their names to the Editor, at Park Crescent, so that they can take their place on the waiting list.

Tandem Wanted

D. Groves is most anxious to have a tandem. If anyone can help, please write to him, c/o G. Bilcliffe, 261 Rectory Road, Little Thurrock.

Here and There

Stan Fowler, of East Beeston, has been in the news lately. The *Nottingham Journal* of December 10th wrote: "Local press men met 27-year-old Stanley Fowler, of 38 Queen's Road, East Beeston, who has proved as quick at his job as a sighted man. Working at a lathe, Stanley shapes the ends of 3,000 brake levers a day." A month later Margaret Lockwood, the famous film star, visited Raleigh Industries and had a special word for Stanley.

★ ★ ★

At his suggestion, a special tool was made by our Industrial Training Officer for J. Davies, of Darwen, in his work for I.C.I. Plastics. Now Davies has been awarded £5 for the idea and the firm is having similar tools made for their other employees.

★ ★ ★

G. H. Shallcross, of Manley, near Chester, has a shop and cafe which he opened up last June. He has one and a quarter acres planted with fruit trees, and he will be selling the fruit, and also tomatoes and chrysanthemums from his large greenhouse. He would very much like to welcome fellow St. Dunstaners at his cafe, which is known as The Teashop, Moulsworth, near Chester. It is in delightful country.

★ ★ ★

Joe Daly, of Liverpool, recently re-trained for plastic press work. A *Liverpool Echo* reporter found him at work at his bench and gave him a good "write-up," which included a tribute from Joe's foreman: "I would not be without him," he said. "His cheery spirit infects us all."

Placements

A. Grogan, in a tobacco, confectionery and grocery business at Leeds; H. Pye, as odd-job man at the Greyhound Stadium, Preston; S. Doy, as a capstan operator with the Southern Railway Works, Ashford; W. Filby, of Streatham, as a capstan operator with Messrs. Bryan's Aeroquipment Co., Ltd., Mitcham; F. Jones, on assembly with the Austin Motor Co., Ltd., Birmingham; J. Roylance, making canvas sacks for Messrs. Carr & Nicholls, Ltd., Atherton; R. Homewood, in a tobacco, confectionery and stationery business at Lee; B. G. Inman's job with Dufay-Chromes, Ltd., is examining in the Roll Film Department and not spool-winding, as reported in the December REVIEW.

Ration Books at West House

Owing to the new Ministry of Food regulations, it is necessary for any St. Dunstaner staying at West House, Brighton, for *three to six nights* to produce a *ration book* from which must be taken *three bread units and four points*.

A whole week's ration must, of course, be given up by anyone staying seven nights or more.

The above regulations also apply to anyone staying at 8 Park Crescent.

ALEX. MACKAY.

Dialling Telephone Numbers

Walter Thornton, of Birmingham, sends us a further hint on readjustment:—

Practice in using all four fingers to find the required space will result in quicker and more efficient dialling. Placing the little finger of the right hand in the space for "1" brings the index finger immediately into the space for "4." The little finger placed in the space for "0" brings the index finger into the space for "7." Numbers "5" and "6" are obtained by sliding into the next space. For the numbers "1" to "3," and "0" to "8," use the first, first two, or first three fingers, according to the number required.

Grandfather

J. C. Owen, of Liverpool.

Thirty Years Ago

From "*St. Dunstan's Review*," February, 1918:

"Owing to the growth in the number of men who have left St. Dunstan's and have started work on their own, and in order to bring the staffs of the Settlement and After-Care Department in closer touch with each other, the latter has been moved to new offices in the grounds of the Hostel. New buildings have been put up near the Settlement offices, and from here all the work connected with the distribution of raw materials and purchase of finished articles from the men will be done.

The shop in Great Portland Street and its branches will continue to sell those goods which cannot be disposed of locally.

The move to St. Dunstan's marks another step in the history of the After-Care Department, which is destined to play such a large part in the future lives of the men who have lost their sight in this great struggle."

Concert and Theatre Tickets

Many St. Dunstaners, especially those living in the London area, will have been given tickets for concerts, theatres, etc., made available to St. Dunstan's through the kindness of outside organisations or individual members of the public.

It has been brought to my notice that, unfortunately, on many occasions St. Dunstaners have, in fact, been unable to use their tickets personally, and have passed them on to sighted relatives or friends. I fully realise that this is done to save wasting the tickets. It makes a very poor impression on the donors, however, who in most cases are present at the performance in question, when they find that practically none of the seats concerned are occupied by St. Dunstaners.

These tickets are given to St. Dunstan's for use by our blinded ex-Service men and women and their escorts only, and donors naturally feel we are abusing their generosity when such an event as I have just mentioned occurs. As a result, several people have ceased to give us tickets though they have been in the habit of regularly doing so in the past. In other instances, we have received quite understandable complaints.

In order to avoid such unfortunate situations in the future, I shall be grateful if St. Dunstaners will only accept tickets if they really intend to use them. Finally, should they, owing to unforeseen circumstances, not be able to attend the performance in question, return the tickets to the Welfare Department at Headquarters or, if time does not permit that, get in touch with us by telephone, when we will arrange for the seats to be filled by other St. Dunstaners.

ALEX. MACKAY,
Welfare Superintendent.

Holiday Camp

I think there is every hope of having a holiday week with the Navy at Lee-on-Solent. I have not yet got any date, but July in former years has suited the Navy best.

I should like to have a meeting of Campers to discuss plans at my Club, 28 Cavendish Square (Private Room) and suggest meeting at 2.30—tea 4 o'clock, one day during week April 5th to 10th.

AVIS SPURWAY.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversaries:

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Cheal, Saltford, June 6th, 1947; Mr. and Mrs. T. North, Cannock, January 24th; Mr. and Mrs. T. Meredith, Wroxall, February 3rd.

Young St. Dunstaners

Sgt. Donald Wardle, Spratton, has been transferred from Educational Section, R.A.C., to R.A.E.C. proper. He is only 19.

Arthur Condon, Basingstoke, is now a Pilot Officer in the A.T.C. His brother, Derek, is a Flight Lieut. in the R.A.F.

Marriage

K. Sheila Shave, Osmington, on December 27th, to Ernest Taylor.

Odd Ode

(being a lament received by Mr. Doughty)

Oh, Mr. Doughty, I am a fool,
I've been and gone and broke my tool.
My wife to me said "Now you'll catch it,
You've bin and gone and broke your ratchet.
You've served the thing too blessed rough,
It's gone on strike, it's had enough.
It's had too many ins and outs,
Ups and downs and roundabouts,
Until red-hot you've made the hook
Slip in and out like a blooming spook.
Cooling it off in the water-bucket!
No wonder the poor thing had to chuck it."

And so the hook just left its haft,
I groped about and felt so daft
And I was filled with mute despair,
Searched here and there and everywhere,
Under the table, under the chairs,
In a mousehole under the stairs,
Under the lino, under the couch,
With aching back, I had to crouch
But couldn't find the blessed thing.
Oh death, oh death, where was thy sting?

And then my hand fell on the rug,
There I found it, lying snug.
So that is why I am a fool,
I have the canvas and the wool,
So please send me a thingamebob,
Give me the tool and I'll finish the job.

E. H. NORTH ("Gen.")

Mr. Doughty, moved to tears
Hastily makes up arrears
By sending "Gen" a nice new tool.
(Editor says "Gen's no ninny,
His odd ode's won him a guinea.")

Miracle Man of Netherby

(This article was sent to us by the Australian News and Information Bureau. It was accompanied by some splendid photographs.)

A blind World War I veteran, whose Scottish relations are Hereditary Standard Bearers to the English Royal Family, is considered one of Australia's best-known breeders and judges of Shorthorn cattle.

He is Mr. J. T. Scrymgeour, of the Netherby Stud Farm, Warwick, Queensland; who can tell the finer points of a Shorthorn by running his hands over it. He can even tell the colour of an animal by the feel of the hair, and until a few years ago he judged regularly at agricultural shows.

"Netherby," where Mr. Scrymgeour lives with his wife and one of his two daughters, comprises 300 acres of rich, heavy black soil, carrying luxuriant growth of trefoil and other pasture.

The Scottish branch of the family, the Scrymgeour-Wedderburns, after protracted legal proceedings, established their right to carry the Royal Standard, as Hereditary Standard Bearers of Scotland, at the Coronation of the present King, George VI.

Mr. W. T. Scrymgeour, J. T. Scrymgeour's father, went to New Zealand in 1862, and after gaining experience as a pastoralist with relatives, he bought the Oamaru Te Akitarawa Station, at Canterbury, carrying 22,000 sheep. Later he brought his family to Australia, where they lived at Goondiwindi, Queensland.

Young Scrymgeour was educated at Canterbury Agricultural College and Duncdin University, in New Zealand, and had just begun his show ring career in Australia when World War I broke out. He joined the Queensland Light Horse and went to Palestine as a Trooper in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, Australian Imperial Forces.

In Palestine he was one of a band of fifty Australians isolated on a knoll by a German counter-attack launched to help the Turks. He was shot in the right eye and in the ankle, and lay helpless for fourteen hours before he was rescued.

In England he was trained at St. Dunstan's and, true to his name (Scrymgeour means "good fighter"), he returned to Australia eager to take up where he had

left off, married a Queensland girl whose war work had earned her the title of "Australia's first woman taxi driver," and settled at Netherby in 1921.

Starting out with a few plain stock, Mr. Scrymgeour gradually built up a select herd of Shorthorns, and became one of Australia's most consistent and successful breeders and exhibitors. His Shorthorn bull, Netherby Royal Challenge, won 70 first prizes, one second, one third, and 14 championships.

Mr. Scrymgeour knows the geography of "Netherby" as well as he knows the processes of his own mind in judging cattle. He takes part in all the routine work about the farm, finding his way to various yards by following a series of overhead wires, from which running ropes hang to guide him. He mixes feed for the cattle and can groom a horse. He types many of his own business letters.

The title of Hereditary Royal Standard Bearer was granted to the family in the eleventh or twelfth centuries, when Malcolm III or Alexander I of Scotland honoured Sir Alexander Carron as a reward for his bravery. Sir Alexander changed the family name to Scrymgeour. A Scrymgeour carried the Royal Standard of Scotland at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

NORMAN BARTLETT.

West House Notes

After such a programme at Christmas, it was just bound to happen! The holiday crowds left us and West House has seemed unnaturally quiet this month. Of course, we have had our usual rounds of dominoes and darts, and have made the most of the good shows running in Brighton, but apart from this, news is very sadly lacking for January.

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the Dinner and Dance given at the Royal Pavilion by the Southdown and Brighton and Hove Omnibus Companies. This was a really grand evening, which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

The 28th found a few of us making our way to Plumpton for the races, but in the main the weather has been as wet and miserable here as in other parts of the country, and so we have been "stay-at-homes" on the whole.

Ovingdean Notes

The Spring term has started with the usual "Sunny South" weather of gales and rain, and an anchor would be a practical piece of personal equipment. A steady flow of new trainees has joined us, with more to come.

An official opening took place on January 22nd of the St. Dunstaners' Children's Holiday and Convalescent Home, Northgate House, Rottingdean.

It was a pleasure to have with us Miss Petsangouraki, who comes from Greece, and is returning to set up a Blind School in her own country. She has spent a fortnight at Ovingdean, learning what she can about the Training Centre and how it functions.

Colonel Cafferata, of the Palestine Police Force, visited us on January 15th to give a very interesting and enlightening talk on affairs in that country. It was a great disappointment when Major Tufton Beamish, M.P., had to cancel his lecture, "Behind the Iron Curtain," owing to a debate in the House of Commons.

The "1914—1918 Club" have formed a Debating Society, which will meet each fortnight. Their first debate, "Do Cosmetics Enhance Women's Beauty?" caused much amusement. Gruesome and exaggerated pictures were painted of eye-black streaking down faces in the rain. The majority were against the use of cosmetics, which was undoubtedly an economically sound conclusion.

At the play-reading this month of "Mystery at Green Fingers," by J. B. Priestley, we were glad to welcome again the members of St. Mark's Choir, who took male parts. Another popular innovation on Sunday evenings is a gramophone recital, held in the Discussion Room.

Mr. Cheeseman, of London, gave a dance at the Savoy Restaurant on January 22nd. On this occasion he invited a number of patients from the Hospital at East Grinstead, and our Escort Sister, Miss Heap, provided partners for those who danced and companions for the "lookers-on." Mr. F. Barlow entertained with songs and stories.

The Southdown Motor Company invited a number of St. Dunstaners of both wars to a dance at the Aquarium Restaurant. The trainees were delighted to accept their hospitality on this occasion, as they were

unable to attend the outing arranged for them last summer.

The enthusiasm for darts is spreading in Ovingdean, and the Staff have produced Darts Teams to compete with the Trainees. Needless to say, the trainees are always the victors, but we now have an idea of the private lives of some members of the staff!

Test Results

Preliminary.—S. Fletcher, R. Cameron, S. Edgar, G. Holland, J. Clyde.

Advanced.—G. Fallowfield, J. Carney, J. Clyde.

Writing.—E. Bedford, R. Cole, T. Rosewarne, J. Perfect, S. Stark, C. Wood, J. G. DuPreez, G. Jakins, J. Carney.

Typing.—W. Rutledge, L. Faulkner, F. Spierling, H. Pye, F. Gresson, J. Coleman, J. Palmer, F. Taylor, W. Orange, F. Fulbrook.

Letter to the Editor

American "Reader's Digest"

DEAR SIR,

The *Reader's Digest* is now available on Talking Book records and I should like to know how many fellow St. Dunstaners with Talking Books are desirous of having this periodical circulated. If there is a sufficient response, perhaps St. Dunstan's would make the necessary arrangements for us to have the *Reader's Digest* on records. If anything should come of this suggestion, I must emphasise that each recipient would be expected to give this book priority and pass on to the next on the rota; if the magazine hangs about too long, much of its value will be nullified.

Yours sincerely;

London, N.W.10. FRANK A. RHODES.

Laying Test

Report for third month from December 8th, 1947, to January 4th, 1948

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Clarke, T.	278
2	Chaffin, Albert	227
3	MacIntosh, Charles	224
4	Fisher, T. M.	209
5	Jarvis, A.	180
6	Woodcock, W. J.	175
7	Holmes, Percy	170
8	Jackson, G. C.	168
9	Smith, W. Alan	109
10	Gregory, T.	58

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

There have been many interesting events during the past two or three months in connection with the Bridge Club, the chief of these being the Christmas Bridge Drive at Headquarters. There was an excellent attendance and the prizes were of a seasonable kind. There was a first-class tea and all present were generous in their appreciation of a most pleasant afternoon.

The League Championship continues to be interesting, and it is hoped that the winners will be known before the Annual General Meeting. Several duplicate matches have been played.

The Annual General Meeting takes place on Saturday, February 28th, at 2.15 p.m., and all St. Dunstaners who are in any way interested in Bridge are very cordially welcomed to the meeting.

R. P. C.

Mr. W. R. Grant

St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death of Mr. W. R. Grant, Chief Accountant at St. Dunstan's since November, 1940, although his close association with us began at the end of the 1914—1918 war, when he frequently visited us as an auditor. His death occurred very suddenly on January 20th.

St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral by Mr. W. G. Askew, Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Mr. W. Berry, and Miss Holland. Among the wreaths were those from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser and St. Dunstan's.

Marriages

CASWELL.—On February 14th, J. Caswell, of Reading, to Miss Vera Wadham.

COLE—CADE.—On February 14th, S. Cole, of Swansea, to Elizabeth Cade. The bride and bridegroom are both 70.

LEGGE—PAYNE.—On January 31st, J. Legge, of Bristol, to Miss Doris Payne.

RIPLEY—CHEW.—On January 24th, F. Ripley, of Leatherhead, to Miss Chew.

STENT—MANNING.—On February 14th, E. L. Stent, of Liverpool, to Miss Manning.

Death

DANIELS.—Our deep sympathy is extended to E. Daniels, of Norwich, whose wife passed away on February 8th, after a long illness.

Spring

*While bards all praise the joys of Spring
And love and every blessed thing*

*That isn't on the ration,
And I in minor vein who sing
Would fain my stint of tribute bring
And not be out of fashion.*

*When plunged in depths of wintry gloom
With threats of economic doom*

*And atom chaos pending,
We long for earth to burst her tomb
To see the snowdrop's fragile bloom
And know that winter's ending.*

*We catch the smell of new-turned earth,
Thus horticulture had its birth*

*In a garden known as Eden.
Had man but known the worth
Of saying "No" with gentle mirth
When offered fruit forbidden.*

*Full soon the birds from distant shores
Returning to our fields and moors*

*Will charm us with their warbling,
We'll revel in the out-of-doors
And even welcome our in-laws
Or rent collectors calling.*

*And when the buds have split their sheath,
The bits and pieces underneath
Will deck the land with beauty.*

*Although we feel the north wind's teeth,
And friends subscribing for our wreath,
We'll try and do our duty.*

*'Tis said that young men's thoughts of love
In springtime turn and with the dove*

They do a spot of wooing.

*Men of riper years remove
Themselves and wiser prove*

When they see trouble brewing.

*The passing of spring chickens rare
Which once enhanced our bill of fare,*

*Nostalgic thoughts evoke.
The kippers we in lieu prepare
Have bones in millions, I declare.
Enough to choke a bloke.*

*For custom's sake I must allude
To skipping lambs, that will intrude
Upon my springtime ditty.*

*'Twould mar the picture and be rude
A hint of mint sauce to include
And that would be a pity.*

*A word unto the critic wise,
Beware how you my verse despise,
I write to make you merry.*

*I shall not get the Nobel prize,
Perhaps a pair of big black eyes,
Or else a loud raspberry.*

—S. A. CHAMBERS.

“ In Memory ”

Lance Corporal John Thomas Johnson, *North Staffordshire Regt.*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. T. Johnson, of Whitemoor, near Congleton. He served from September, 1914, until December, 1918. When he came to us, three years later, his health was already very bad, and all through the years he has only been able to do the lightest occupation. He visited West House last year for one of his periodic breaks, but after three months, although he was very ill indeed, he felt he would like to go home. He passed away in hospital on Christmas Day, to which he had been admitted a few hours earlier. In spite of continued ill-health, he had a grand sense of humour, and he was a great favourite at our Homes.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was sent for the funeral.

He was a widower, and we extend our sympathy to his family.

Lance Corporal Albert Charles Rodgers, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of A. C. Rodgers, of Wrexham, on January 1st.

Enlisting in April, 1915, he was discharged in October, 1916, and came to us two months later. He trained as a boot repairer and for a long time carried on this work, although of late he had led a quiet life. His death was quite unexpected. Arrangements had been made for him to join his friend, Jock Waddell, at West House, when we received the news of his death. He had been ill only a brief time.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent, and our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private William Davies, *North Staffordshire Regt.*

We record with deep regret the death of W. Davies, of Blockley.

A regular soldier before the 1914-18 war—he had enlisted in 1903—he was wounded in January, 1915, and was discharged the same year. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1922. His head wound not only caused his loss of sight, but severely damaged his health, and he led a very quiet life, only doing a little poultry, and later, a little wool rug work. He gradually became a very sick man, and he passed away on January 6th.

A wreath was sent from Sir Ian and his comrades.

He leaves a wife and family, to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

Private James Forbes Macpherson, *Seaforth Highlanders*

With deep regret we record the death of J. F. Macpherson, of Windsor.

Enlisting in 1914, he was seriously wounded on the Somme in 1916, and was discharged from the Army two years later. He did not, however, come to St. Dunstan's until 1936. Some years before, he and his wife had settled in Canada, but he returned to this country in 1936. He trained at St. Dunstan's and became one of our shop-keepers. He had been ill for some time with heart trouble, and he passed away at his home on January 21st.

A wreath from St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral, and a St. Dunstaner, C. Singleton, was among those present. A piper from the Scots Guards played Lovat's "Lament" and "Flowers of the Forest."

We extend our deep sympathy to his widow and family. His eldest son, Jim, was killed while serving with the R.A.F.

Private Robert Alexander Barbour, *42nd Canadians*

With deep regret we record the death of R. A. Barbour, of Brighton, another Canadian who settled in this country after the war.

Wounded in France the day before Armistice Day, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1919, where he trained in netting and basket-making. He returned to Canada after training, but came back to England soon afterwards.

He had only been ill for a few days before his death on February 7th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and two daughters.

Births

JUNER.—On August 1st, to the wife of D. Juner, of New Parks, Leicestershire, a daughter—Madeline Irene.

LAWTON.—On January 21st, to the wife of M. Lawton, of East Ham, a daughter—Maria Ann.

LYNCH.—On December 20th, to the wife of Joseph Lynch, of Murrumbidgee, Victoria, Australia, a son.

SIMMONS.—On February 2nd, to the wife of T. Simmons, of Ramsgate, a son—Peter John.

STANLEY.—On January 8th, to the wife of G. Stanley, of Patcham, a son—David.

WATERWORTH.—On February 7th, to the wife of G. Waterworth, of Coventry, a son—Raymond.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Violet Carter, wife of Nick Carter, gave birth to a son, Timothy Joseph Nicholas, on December 14th, 1947.

Mrs. Carter was weaving teacher at Church Stretton and Ovingdean.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Rodgers, of Wrexham, thanks her husband's many friends for their messages and tributes, which have been such a comfort to her in her sorrow.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 348—VOLUME XXXI [NEW SERIES]

MARCH, 1948

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Her Majesty The Queen Visits St. Dunstan's

THE visit of Her Majesty the Queen to our Training Establishment at Ovingdean, on February 26th, was an event of the greatest significance for St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners all over the world. I am sure that I express for all the members of our world-wide family the honour done to our organisation on this occasion. As readers will learn from other pages, the Queen made the visit an informal and friendly affair, and I am sure that the recollection that will be uppermost in the mind of anyone who was there will be Her Majesty's charming voice and manner, which made even the most nervous feel at ease in talking with her.

Many members of St. Dunstan's Council were present to greet the Queen, and at a meeting held shortly after the visit, a resolution was passed expressing appreciation of the arrangements made by the Commandant and his staff, and the thanks of the Council to all trainees for their share in the success of the Royal Visit was placed on record.

St. Dunstaners in the Union

I went to South Africa on private family business, but while I was there attended six ex-Servicemen's meetings, including three St. Dunstan's Reunions. Lady Fraser and I met a number of South African St. Dunstaners who live in or near the big centres, such as Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Durban, and also some relatives of South Africans who are at present in training in Britain. I gave the best wishes of St. Dunstaners in England to St. Dunstaners in South Africa, and they asked me to bring their greetings back. I also attended a meeting of St. Dunstan's, South Africa, Committee, at which Mr. Alers Hankey presided, and where we discussed many business matters of mutual interest.

Many old friends of Mrs. Chadwick Bates will be glad to know that, although she had a touch of 'flu while we were in South Africa, she is on the whole very well and, I thought, as I have always thought, that she was doing a wonderful job of work for South Africa and for us.

The Four Rights

The right stuff, the right place, the right time, and the right price. This was the formula given to me by Bill Shakspeare for successful shopkeeping when I visited him at his business and home in Sheldon, near Birmingham, earlier this month.

"I have heard some disabled ex-Servicemen," he told me, "say that the public ought to buy from them because they have been blinded or crippled. It isn't any good," he said emphatically, "you have got to give value, whoever you are."

Bill is a St. Dunstaner of the first war who owns two successful retail shops, where he sells newspapers, tobacco, stationery and groceries, and he has built them up and paid for them himself, with the assistance in later years of his son and daughter, who are now partners.

Bill practises what he preaches, for his shop certainly impressed Lady Fraser and me as being one of the best of its kind; quietly busy, well set out and efficient. The shop is open at 6.30 a.m., when two thousand newspapers have to be sorted, ready for thirteen boys to deliver, and some hundreds of customers have to be attended to before 8 a.m. One of the partners, and often two, are on duty during the twelve hours of every day the shop is open. Even on Sundays the newspaper customers must be served.

Voluntary Work

Voluntary work for ex-Servicemen and women is the interest of a number of St. Dunstaners. Bill Shakspeare is typical of these. He devotes much of his thought and all his spare time acting as honorary representative of St. Dunstan's in his district, or as British Legion Club and Branch official.

The Sheldon No. 1 Branch and Club of the British Legion owes its splendid premises primarily to his financial ability and faith. In addition to owning their own branch headquarters, they have a flourishing club, a hall that will seat 250 people, and a sports hall which I opened for them on the occasion of my visit. Bill borrowed the money, formed a Friendly Society, sold the shares and guided the finance. The venture is a great success, well patronised, and more than paying its way. Last year they made £500 profit. "Very hard work, common sense, and ability to see a bit of luck when it crosses your way and take advantage of it," that is how Bill himself describes the secret of his success in life.

I told the audience who came to the opening ceremony that both St. Dunstan's and the Legion were very proud of Bill Shakspeare.

Other St. Dunstaners Help

There are quite a large number of St. Dunstaners who act as honorary officials of St. Dunstan's Committees or honorary representatives in different parts of the country. I cannot mention them all by name, though much honour and our best thanks are due to them all. One, however, is in the news this month, namely, F. G. Braithwaite, of Guildford, who has just been elected Worshipful Master of the Onslow Lodge (Freemasons). Congratulations to Bro. Braithwaite, in which Masons generally, and St. Dunstan's Masons in particular, will join. Not so long ago, Frank Braithwaite came to my office with a big cheque, which he had raised by a house-to-house collection in that town. The Countess of Onslow came with him, for she is President of his Committee. There will be many of the younger generation who will remember Lady Onslow when she used to pay regular visits to our wards at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Her name was then Lady Cranley.

IAN FRASER.

To Gunners, R.A.

The Royal Artillery Association is holding a Rally at the Albert Hall on Saturday, May 1st, at 7.30 p.m.

The Committee are most anxious that any St. Dunstaners who were Gunners should attend, if they would like to do so.

Will those Gunners who are interested send in their names to Mr. Mackay, at Headquarters immediately.

Seafield House

St. Dunstaners who were at camp in 1945 and 1946 will hear with regret that Seafield House has been destroyed by fire. It was a fine Georgian mansion, and had been used as a signal school. Our campers were under canvas in its grounds in 1945 and in the house itself in 1946.

Holiday Camp

Commodore Neame, of Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, invites St. Dunstaners to a Holiday Camp from Friday, August 6th—13th. Please send in names to Mrs. Spurway, Holmwood Vicarage, Dorking.

★ ★ ★

Campers are invited to a meeting on April 6th, at 2.30 p.m., at the V.A.D. Club, 28 Cavendish Square (at the back of John Lewis, Oxford Street, corner of Hollis Street). I should like to know how many to expect, so please write to me if you are coming.

AVIS SPURWAY.

The Queen at St. Dunstan's

On February 26th the Queen paid her first visit to St. Dunstan's. Her Majesty arrived at the Training Centre, Ovingdean, soon after 3 o'clock, where she was greeted by Sir Neville Pearson, President of St Dunstan's. Sir Neville then presented to Her Majesty, Lady (Arthur) Pearson, ex-President, and widow of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, Sir Ian Fraser, Chairman, Mr. A. W. Tuke, Honorary Treasurer, Mr. W. G. Askew, Secretary, Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, Commandant of Ovingdean, Miss D. A. Pain, Matron, and Lady Fraser, Commandant, V.A.D.

Conducted by Air Commodore Dacre, the Queen went up to the Lounge, where Sir Ian presented Mr. L. Fawcett, Commandant at West House, and Mrs. M. Ouseley, Matron at West House.

In a brief speech, Sir Ian Fraser said he and his wife had just arrived back from South Africa in time for this great occasion. The visit of the Royal Family to South Africa was still being talked about, and its effect upon all in the Union had been very deep and significant, binding them to each other and to the Mother Country.

The visit of the Queen to St. Dunstan's, Sir Ian said, honoured not only those who were present, but more than five thousand members of St. Dunstan's family throughout the Empire. (Applause.)

Sir Ian then presented to Her Majesty, Sapper T. C. McKay, a young blinded and crippled Royal Engineer, who had been chosen to typify all St. Dunstaners who were not present at the ceremony.

A large contingent from West House were present, and the Queen passed among them all, shaking hands and chatting with many. A particularly proud St. Dunstaner was Petty Officer Gopala K. Unny, of the Royal Indian Marines, to whom the Queen spoke for some minutes.

Air Commodore Dacre then conducted the Queen round the Training Centre. Her Majesty stayed for nearly two hours, visiting every department in turn, and watching and greeting many of the trainees at their work. She had a special word for Ted Miller, a handless St. Dunstaner, weaving at his loom, and John Proctor, another handless man, at his typewriter. Eileen Gould, who lost her sight while serving with the A.T.S., presented a bouquet to Her Majesty, and the Queen

also accepted a sea grass stool, a leather handbag, a royal blue rug, a blue woollen scarf, a plastic bowl, and a table lamp from the handicraft trainees.

These gifts were sent on, and the Air Commodore has received a letter from the Queen's Private Secretary saying with what pleasure Her Majesty had received them. They would be delightful reminders to the Queen of her visit.

Passing on to the upholstery, carpentry and engineering departments, Her Majesty was greatly impressed with the skilled work our men are doing in preparing for their part in the production drive.

In the Braille Library the Queen had tea. Her long visit had come to an end. But before she left the Training Centre she signed her name in the Visitors' Book, and then, passing through cheering rows of trainees and members of the staff, she said goodbye with her own charming smile and that gracious wave of the hand which we have come to know so well.

The royal car drove slowly away down the hill to the coast road, and the last to wave goodbye to Her Majesty was a group of nurses and staff from West House, who had taken up their positions on an "island" in the road outside.

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Amongst those present at the ceremony were the Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, the Rt. Hon. the Lord Leconfield, His Worship the Mayor of Brighton, Councillor P. F. Friend-James, and the Chief Constable of Brighton, Captain W. J. Hutchinson.

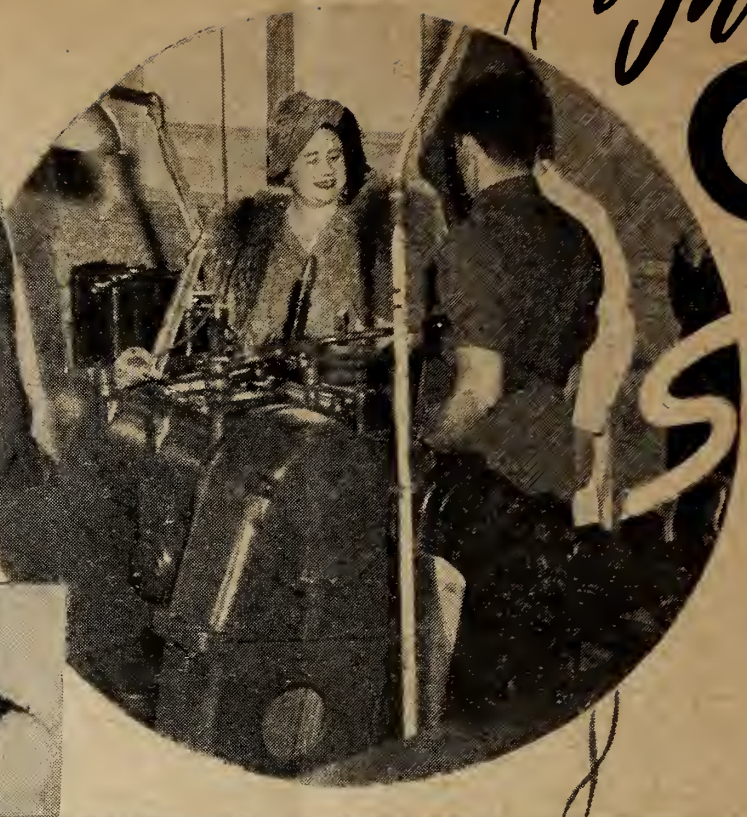
Amongst those presented to Her Majesty were St. Dunstan's Council Members, Captain William Appleby, Lieut. Col. Eric Ball, Major General John Hay Beith, Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Carpendale, Major Sir Brunel Cohen, Miss M. Hamar Greenwood, and Lord Normanby, and staff including Mr. I. F. Anderson, Director of Education; Miss Mortimer, Mrs. Comer, Mr. Hawketts, Dr. Mulcahy, Miss M. D. Adams, Miss L. Carlton, Lounge Sister, Mrs. L. Harvey, Miss D. Noon, Miss F. Ramshaw, Miss G. Scadden, Mrs. R. C. Webster, and Messrs. R. Burman, K. Bundy, E. G. Cheesman, E. Killingbeck, S. Kitson, K. Norman, F. Ralph, T. Rogers, and J. Steel.

A number of St. Dunstaners, with whom the Queen had a word of conversation, were also informally presented.

Sir Neville Pearson, in his capacity as President of St. Dunstan's, sent a letter of thanks to Her Majesty the Queen for her visit and has received the following letter from the Queen's Private Secretary:

(continued on page 6)

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Buckingham Palace.
27th February, 1948.

MY DEAR SIR NEVILLE,

By command of Her Majesty the Queen, I am writing to say how pleased Her Majesty has been to be able to visit the St. Dunstan's Training Centre.

The Queen was deeply impressed by the wonderful training which the Centre is giving to men and women who have lost their sight. The wide variety of activities which they are taught, and the skill which they attain, has given Her Majesty very great pleasure and has aroused her warm admiration.

The Queen feels sure that the spirit of goodwill which so clearly permeates those at the Centre must be a source of constant strength and gratification to all those who, like yourself, have devoted their lives to those who have lost their sight in the service of their country.

Yours sincerely, (Signed) T. C. HARVEY,
Private Secretary to the Queen.

The Chairman has received the following letter:—

Buckingham Palace.

DEAR SIR IAN FRASER, 1st March, 1948.

Her Majesty the Queen was very pleased to receive your letter, and to know that her visit to St. Dunstan's was so much appreciated.

I can assure you that the Queen, for her part, was very moved by what she saw and by the wonderful atmosphere which prevails.

I am so glad that you and Lady Fraser were able to get back in time, for a visit to St. Dunstan's would have seemed incomplete without you.

Yours sincerely, (Signed) T. C. HARVEY,
Private Secretary to the Queen.

The Children's Home

It has been decided for the present to reduce the age of entry for children to the Children's Home, Northgate House, from three years to one year. This means that, until further notice, boys can be admitted between the ages of one and twelve, and girls between the ages of one and fourteen.

Test Results

Braille, Advanced: J. Rawlinson, G. K. Unny, R. J. Vine.

Braille, Writing: G. Holland, G. K. Unny.

Typing: J. Clyde, E. Penny, H. Dickenson, J. Wilson, J. Stuart, J. Conroy, A. Downman.

Ovingdean Notes

This month a very kind invitation came from the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, of which the 1914—1918 trainees gladly availed themselves. A happy coachload set off on Saturday morning, February 28th. After lunch at the Museum, they were taken to a private hall where small tables held sample exhibits which they were allowed to handle. Friendly curators gladly answered every question, and records of animal noises were played for us. After tea at Lyons' Corner House, there was a visit to the play "The Relapse," at The Phoenix Theatre, and so home, after a perfect day.

St. Dunstaners in Brighton were very privileged to hear a private land-line broadcast at Ovingdean of a commentary on the Mills—Bueno and Thompson—Proietti fights, from the Harringay Arena, on February 17th. Tommy Trinder gave the commentary, and Sid Field summed up. The concert-hut was crowded, but unfortunately the "big fight" took place earlier than expected and, incidentally, only lasted for four and a half minutes. However, many St. Dunstaners who were listening were shown on news reels at cinemas all over the country, and now think that they will terminate their training at Ovingdean in order to sign film contracts in Hollywood.

It was an exciting evening for those who went to the Plummer Roddis dance on Feb. 19th. The quiz—with forfeits—during the interval, was very amusing, and a certain bachelor, who shall remain anonymous, had to propose to his partner and, to the great delight of the audience, was accepted.

The Town Clerk of Brighton, Mr. Drew, gave an extremely interesting lecture on February 23rd. His subject was "Matters of Local Interest" and Mr. Perry's talk, a résumé of the Disabled Persons' Act, was very enlightening.

Our first shooting match against the Sussex Rifle Club, next month, is a much looked-forward-to event. Recently, in a practice match, three totally blinded men fired ten shots each, with the most astounding results. Twenty-nine out of thirty were all within a six-inch circle. The result of this match was as follows:—

Dickie Richardson,	94	out of a possible	100
Stan Fletcher	89	" "	100
Kel Gattrell	77	" "	100

West House Notes

Naturally enough, the Royal Visit overshadowed all else during February, but that is not to say that there were not plenty of other things for our enjoyment.

We have always been exceptionally fortunate in having the friendship of the residents in this district, and another indication of this was shown on February 12th, when a Darts Team from West House was invited to a match at the Park View Hotel. On that occasion a barrel of beer was given by the proprietor, Mr. Jarvis. Whether or not this spurred us on we would not like to say, but the fact remains that our team won the match!

St. Valentine's Eve Dance got off to a flying start, with a surprise visit from Max Miller and Alfred Thripp, the blind pianist, who was appearing with Max at the Brighton Hippodrome that week. We had our usual appropriately festive decorations, made by the Lounge Staff, and the whole evening was a great success.

It has been a long time since we had a "Brains Trust" at West House, and this provided us with an interesting and enjoyable evening on Sunday, February 15th. The Question Master was Mr. W. Weeks, and the team consisted of Squadron Leader W. T. Curtis-Willson, Councillor T. Pugh, Councillor Miss I. Mitchell, Mr. Aubrey East, and Mrs. Scaping.

Many of you will be pleased to hear that Mrs. Malone expects to be in Brighton for Easter, and she will be paying another visit to West House then.

Sister Evans, who had been West House Dispensary Sister since we reopened after the war in 1945, left us at the end of February. We are sure those St. Dunstaners who remember her will wish to join with us in wishing her the very best of luck in the future and, since she is still living in the district, we hope to be seeing her again from time to time.

Masonic

Bro. Frank Braithwaite, of Guildford, was installed Worshipful Master of the Onslow Lodge, No. 2234 (Freemasons) on Thursday, February 12th. W. Bro. Braithwaite is a St. Dunstaner of the first World War, and for many years has run a most successful wholesale leather business.

Gwen Obern and Bro. H. Costigan contributed to the musical entertainment during the evening.

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

On February 28th the Club held its 10th Annual General Meeting at Park Crescent, under the most congenial and able direction of its Chairman, Mr. A. Mackay. There was a record gathering of twenty-three members, including three members of the recent war. It is hoped that many more younger St. Dunstaners will come along and infuse new vigour and blood in the Club. Reports of the Captain and Secretary reflected the Club's extensive activities, and the Treasurer's statement showed the Club to be in a very healthy state so far as finances were concerned. There was one very dark spot, viz., the retirement of our most able captain, Reg. Coles. He has held this office for three years, and it is very largely due to his loyalty to the Club and devotion to his duties that the past three years have been so outstanding.

The new officers appointed were Frank A. Rhodes, Captain and Secretary; H. Gover, Treasurer, with the valued assistance of Drummer on the Committee.

All those interested in Bridge are cordially invited to join us on Saturday afternoons; especially we should like to have good support from St. Dunstaners of the last war.

FRANK A. RHODES,

"E. K."

Mr. Ernest Kessell, C.B.E., who was associated with Sir Arthur Pearson in the foundation of St. Dunstan's, and who served as its honorary treasurer for seventeen years, celebrated his eightieth birthday on February 22nd.

Among the many congratulatory messages which Mr. Kessell received was a letter from Queen Mary. Other letters from Lord Mayors of London, Manchester, Newcastle, Liverpool, Nottingham and Sheffield, and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Law Success

Our warmest congratulations to A. Howard Simcocks who, since being blinded in Italy, has studied law, and has now passed the finals of his examinations. His success is the more outstanding since it has been achieved well under the normal period of studentship. He has passed his finals in two and a half years, but cannot be "called" until the normal three years' studentship is completed. He will practise in the Isle of Man.

“ In Memory ”

Private Frederick Ashworth, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of F. Ashworth, of Gorleston-on-Sea.

His sight failing as a result of his war service, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1918, where he trained in basket-making and netting.

He had for some time been ill in hospital, and he passed away there on February 15th.

He leaves a widow and adopted child, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

Private Thomas Powell, *Labour Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of T. Powell, of Brighton.

His sight failed after his service with the Labour Corps, and he was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1921, where he trained in telephony.

His death was unexpected; he passed away in his sleep on February 11th.

Tommy Powell was a single man, and our sympathy is extended to his brother.

Lance Corporal William James Hallam, *2nd Sherwood Foresters*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on March 7th, of W. J. Hallam, a permanent resident at West House.

Wounded at Namur in 1914, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1915, left us and was re-admitted in 1927, when he trained as a telephonist. The funeral took place at Uxbridge and the wreaths included one from the Directors of his old firm, the Dairy Supply Co. It was inscribed, "To the best telephone operator ever, with grateful thanks for extremely efficient, courteous and devoted service." St. Dunstaners Harry Day and Mark Sheridan were present from West House.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his daughter, Dorothy, who is married to Leslie Webber, a St. Dunstaner of the 1939—45 war.

Sergeant Walter H. Thorpe, *1st Suffolk Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of W. H. Thorpe, of Chelmsford.

He received wounds which led to his blindness at Ypres in 1915, and he came to St. Dunstan's three years later. He trained as a joiner, but later took up a post as a porter in an infirmary.

He passed away on March 5th, after a short illness.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

Private John Benson, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Benson, of Boroughbridge.

As a result of service in Palestine and Egypt, his sight failed and his hearing was also greatly affected. He was discharged from the Army in 1919 and came to us the following year. He trained as a poultry farmer and took a keen interest in his work right up to the time of his death, in spite of very indifferent health for some time.

Our deep sympathy does out to his widow and children.

John William Burge, *Merchant Navy*

We record with deep regret the death of another of our permanent residents of West House, J. W. ("Dicky") Burge.

Discharged from the Merchant Navy in 1915, he came to us the following year. He was eventually trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker, but for some years was not able to work, and after the death of his second wife had been one of our permanent residents. He suffered considerably, but his death on February 19th occurred only a few days after he had been confined to his bed.

"Dicky" and his dominoes had become quite a part of the life of West House and he will be missed.

Trooper Robert Peat, *Royal Tank Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of R. Peat, of Carlisle, a St. Dunstaner of the 1939—45 war.

Enlisting in July, 1940, he was discharged in March, 1946. His sight had failed and he was in a very low physical condition. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in December, 1947, but training of any sort was impossible. He died following an operation at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on February 14th. He was taken home to Carlisle to be buried, and Mr. and Mrs. Wooldridge were among the mourners.

Our sympathy goes out to his family, and particularly to his sister, who nursed him.

Births

BOSELEY.—On February 11th, to the wife of A. H. Boseley, of Liscard, Wallasey, a son—Albert Harry Alexander Brian.

FAULKNER.—On February 11th, to the wife of W. D. Faulkner, of Smethwick, a daughter—Peggy Ann.

SERDET.—On August 22nd, to the wife of A. M. Serdet, of Edgham, a daughter—Rosemary Elaine.

Marriages

HEWETT—WINCHCOMBE.—On February 7th, G. Hewett, of Liverpool, to Mrs. Winchcombe.

CRADDOCK.—On February 7th, R. Craddock, of Great Sankey, Warrington.

DURANT.—On February 21st, G. Durant of Worthing.

Death

POOLE.—Our deep sympathy goes out to I. H. Poole, of Redditch, whose wife passed away on February 28th.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 349—VOLUME XXXI [NEW SERIES]

APRIL, 1948

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

BLIND people receive many kindnesses and favours from the sighted whether as a community or as individuals. The free wireless licence, a special arrangement to facilitate voting, and the railway travel concession, are notable. We cannot and, I am sure, do not expect everything free, nor would it be justifiable for any administration to multiply concessions to the blinded without considering their extension to others such as the paralysed and the deaf. The three concessions I have mentioned are, however, particularly applicable to the blind, and there is, I think, a good argument for them in equity and common sense.

There is no reason that I can see why nationalised industry should give away more than free enterprise, for somebody has got to foot the bill in either case, and in the end I think the economists would tell us that it is always the consumer or the taxpayer who pays. Sometimes, indeed, it is easier to obtain a concession from a private person than from a municipality, a great corporation or the State itself, because the former is free to act on his own initiative without having to consider wider social implications and precedents. Nevertheless, the change of ownership and management of British railways offers an opportunity for making a bid for an improvement in the railway concession for which we have had to thank the old railway companies for a generation.

There is a new rule—I think it is a very bad one—which prevents a private Member of Parliament from asking Parliamentary questions about the management of our nationalised industries and I was refused permission to put down a question on this matter. Accordingly, I have addressed a letter to the Minister of Transport which I now publish, and I shall ask him to let me publish his reply. Here is the text of my letter:—

DEAR BARNES,

31st March, 1948.

Would you consider, now that the railways have been nationalised, improving the concession for railway travel for blind persons? The companies have for the past twenty-five years or so allowed a concession whereby a sighted escort travelling with a blind person on a business journey may travel free.

There are two ways in which the concession could be improved. First of all, many blind persons feel the concession might be extended to the blind person himself so that he gets the two fares for the cost of one if he travels with an escort, but travels free if he goes alone. Those who go alone are not very numerous, but they do include men who go regularly to work from the suburbs of our great cities.

The other way in which the concession could be improved would be by removing the business journey limitation. At present, the blind person has to apply to St. Dunstan's if he is a blinded ex-Serviceman, or to the National Institute for the Blind if he is a civilian,

or to certain other authorities for a form which, when filled in and presented at the Booking Office, entitles him to a free ticket for his guide on a business journey. A business journey is fairly well and quite narrowly defined as a result of the practice of the past years and the goodwill of the railway companies. The limitation is, however, tightly drawn and does not permit a blind person to visit relations, go for a holiday, attend an Agricultural Show, etc.

For your information, I enclose copies of a cable which I have sent to responsible authorities in the blind world in the United States and in the Dominions, and their replies.

From these you will see that in Australia and New Zealand both the concessions I have mentioned are granted to blinded ex-Servicemen, whilst in Canada and the United States the second concession, namely, that of allowing all journeys at half cost, is granted, whilst the South African goes further than the British in many respects.

No doubt, in considering this concession, you will be asking yourself what other group in the community may make a claim for a travel concession. I would submit that there is a good reason for picking out blind people for a special concession, namely, that it is extremely difficult for them to travel alone and impossible for the majority, so that almost every journey undertaken so lightly and so easily by the ordinary person has to be organised and arranged and an escort provided. Even if the escort receives a free ticket, the blind person is put to the expense of double incidental expenses, double meals, etc.

It is, I suggest, in the community's interest that its blind people, in spite of their handicap, should be aided to go to work and to enjoy a full and, as far as possible, normal life.

You may also consider that a blind citizen who normally pays the same taxes as any other is unable to enjoy the fruits of many of them, such as the beauties of open spaces, parks, and so on.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) IAN FRASER.

THE RT. HON. A. BARNES, M.P.,
Ministry of Transport,
Berkeley Square House,
London, W.1.

Talking Books

I have heard good reports of the new Talking Book model. St. Dunstaners seem particularly pleased with the lifting device and the extra volume. A meeting of the Sound Recording Board of Directors was held at my office recently. The Committee was able to report that in spite of many difficulties, the Decca Company was maintaining a steady supply of Electric A.C. machines and that one hundred and ten St. Dunstaners who wanted to exchange their old clockwork models for an electric A.C. machine had now done so. This only leaves fifty-nine who need either D.C. or battery models. I thought at first that this was due to the fact that many more houses have been equipped with electricity; this is certainly quite true, but of course, a very high percentage originally bought the clockwork model because it was cheaper and portable. Nevertheless, the figures are interesting.

Horace Kerr tells me that he has now started on the waiting list for new machines and it is hoped that the first hundred will be supplied within the next two months.

IAN FRASER.

Placements

L. F. Coles, Leytonstone, in a tobacconist's business, etc.; C. Fone, of Edmonton, in a tobacco and stationery business; R. Freer, of Ilfracombe, in a tobacco, confectionery and stationery business, including a library; D. Jennings, of Market Harborough, as a telephonist with the Harborough Construction Company; D. W. Smith, of Worcester, as a telephonist

with the Ministry of Labour; C. E. Tibbitt, with Messrs. Lines Brothers, Morden, on assembly. A. Cavanagh, operating a handless loom at the Remploi Factory, Salford; W. Carthy, of Rainworth, near Mansfield, in a tobacco, confectionery, etc., business; A. Parslow, Battersea, in a tobacco and confectionery business; C. Womack, with the Imperial Typewriter Co., Ltd., Leicester, on a small power press.

Removal to New Headquarters

We have to announce that the removal to our new Headquarters will take place on April 29th and 30th and May 1st, and St. Dunstaners are requested to refrain from calling at or telephoning to Park Crescent or Snow Hill on these three days unless the matter is urgent. The address of the new Headquarters is 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1, and the entrance to it is at the side of the building in Harcourt Street. The telephone number is Paddington 5021 and the telegraphic address is Endunstani, Phone, London.

The Marylebone Road building is 1,200 yards going west from Baker Street and within 500 yards of Edgware Road. There is an entrance to the Edgware Road (Metropolitan and Inner Circle) Station in Marylebone Road immediately opposite the building, and all St. Dunstaners are warned that in view of the fast-moving traffic in Marylebone Road they and their escorts should use the two Belisha crossings by the station. The nearest station on the Bakerloo Line is Marylebone.

The building has five floors and a sub-basement, and there is a lift. The various Departments will be accommodated as follows and the Head of Department is shown in brackets:—

Ground or Entrance Floor

Joinery Department (Mr. George).

Boot Department (Mr. Durrant).

There will also be a Dispensary on this floor and the rooms in the north wing will be utilised as a Club for men living in and around London and men passing through London. The Club will not be available until early June, and full information in regard to it will be included in the next issue of the REVIEW.

Sub-Basement

Basket Department (Mr. White).

Despatch Department (Mr. Mustchin).

General Storage.

First Floor

General Welfare Department (Mr. Mackay), including

Northern Area Superintendent (Miss Wilson);

Southern Area Superintendent (Miss Outing, who is now taking the place of Miss Webster, who is being transferred to other work).

Industrial Department (Mr. Owens), including

Telephony (Miss MacDiarmid);

Shops (Mr. Beeforth).

Home Industries Accounts (Mr. Ovenden).

Shop Accounts (Mr. Christopher).

General Welfare Accounts (Miss Sailing).

Men's Supplies Dept.—*i.e.*, Wireless, Type-writers, Cards, Dominoes, etc. (Mr. Kerr).

Second Floor

Home Industries Department—*i.e.*, Boots, Mats, Wool Rugs, Baskets, Joinery, Netting (Mr. Bennett).

Secretary's Department (Mr. Askew and Mr. Lloyds, Assistant Secretary).

Chief Accountant's Department (Mr. Wills, who has been newly appointed to take the place of the late Mr. Grant).

Third Floor

Wool Rug and Netting Department (Mr. Doughty).

Mr. Doughty (The Technical Superintendent for Home Industries).

Telephone Switchboard (Mr. Crabtree).

Kitchen and Staff Canteen.

Fourth Floor

Estate, Housing and Insurance Department (Mr. Lale).

Settlement Department (Mr. Matthews).

Physiotherapy Department (Mr. Smyth).

Country Life Department (Mr. Ferguson).

We pointed out in a previous issue of the REVIEW that the Chairman's Office, the Appeals and Publicity Departments, and Mr. Rice's office would, at a later date, be moving to No. 1 South Audley Street, W.1. This move will not, however, occur until the early autumn, so in the meantime, these offices will remain at Park Crescent. Notice will be given when this move will take place. The telephone number at Park Crescent will continue to be Welbeck 7921, and the telegraphic address will be Saindun, Phone, London.

We also stated that the Mat Department under Mr. Cane would remain at Raglan Street, Kentish Town. The mat makers are informed that whilst they should send their mats to Crown Place, all orders for raw materials and all correspondence with Mr. Cane should be sent to No. 191 Marylebone Road.

Joiners, Basket Makers and Wool Rug Makers, sending articles to St. Dunstan's for sale, should address them to No. 191 Marylebone Road on and after April 24th.

May we repeat a warning to all St. Dunstaners to take particular care at the Marylebone Road crossing which will be unfamiliar to them.

National Insurance

St. Dunstaners will have heard over the radio and from the newspapers a great deal about the new National Insurance Act which comes into full operation on July 5th next, and will be wondering how they are affected personally by the Scheme.

The Minister of National Insurance has still to make a number of regulations under the Act, and until these regulations are made it is not possible to give a clear picture of how St. Dunstaners will be affected. It may be a convenience, however, if we set out below the main benefits to be received under the Act and the contributions which will have to be made under the various classes:—

CLASSES OF INSURED PERSONS

- CLASS 1—Employed persons, that is all persons who work under a contract of service for salary, wages or other remuneration, such as telephonists, factory workers, shorthand typists, etc.
- CLASS 2—Self-employed persons, that is all persons who are gainfully occupied in work on their own account such as shopkeepers, farmers, physiotherapists, etc.
- CLASS 3—Non-employed persons, that is everyone who does not come under Class 1 or Class 2.

NOTE: It has not yet been decided by the Minister whether men engaged in rug making, basket making, or other home crafts will be insured under Class 2 or Class 3.

BENEFITS

There is a wide range of cash benefits but not every insured person will rank for every one of these benefits. The benefit afforded to each Class of insured person is shown below:—

	Unem- ployment	Sick- ness	Retire- ment	Widows' Benefits	Mater- nity	Death Grant
Class 1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class 2	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class 3	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Guardians' Benefit may be payable to anyone

WEEKLY RATES OF BENEFIT

	Insured Person	wife	1st Child of School age	Relative Depen- dant or person caring for In- sured's child*
Unemployment	26/-	16/-	7/6	16/-
Sickness	26/-	16/-	7/6	16/-
Retirement	26/-	16/-	7/6	nil

*Payable only where no Allowance for Wife in issue

Widows

36/- for 13 weeks plus 7/6 for first child, at the end of the 13 weeks 33/6 for a widow and child or 26/- for a childless widow over 50 or incapable of self-support.

Maternity

£4 in respect of each child born and either 36/- a week for 13 weeks for an employed or self-employed woman or £1 a week for 4 weeks for any other woman.

Guardian

12/- weekly to anyone whose family includes an orphan child whose father or mother was insured.

Death

18 years of age and over—£20; 6 years and under 18 years—£15; 3 years and under 6 years—£10; under 3 years—£6.

RATES OF CONTRIBUTION

Class 1 (Employed)

	Employee	Employer	Total Stamp
Men	4/11	4/2	9/1
Women	3/10	3/3	7/1
Boys (under 18)	2/10½	2/5½	5/4
Girls (under 18)	2/4	1/11	4/3

These rates include small contributions (4d. a week in the case of men) under the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1946, which takes the place of the Workmen's Compensation Acts so far as fresh accidents are concerned. The benefits under this Act are payable in cases of personal injury caused by accidents arising out of and in the course of the person's employment, and the benefits to be received are almost identical with those given to a Private Soldier disabled on War Service. The existing Workmen's Compensation cases will continue to be paid at the old rates, but beneficiaries may be entitled to the Unemployability Supplement and/or Constant Attendance Allowance.

Class 2 (Self-employed)

MEN, 6/2; WOMEN, 5/1; BOYS (under 18 years), 3/7; GIRLS (under 18 years), 3/1.

Class 3 (Non-employed)

MEN, 4/8; WOMEN, 3/8; BOYS (under 18 years), 2/9; GIRLS (under 18 years), 2/3.

RETIREMENT PENSION

This pension is payable on retirement from regular employment to an insured man on reaching 65 years of age and to his wife on her reaching 60 years of age.

The wife cannot receive the separate pension of 16/- a week on her husband's insurance until the husband qualifies and she reaches the age of 60, but when the husband has qualified he can claim a dependant's allowance of the same amount in respect of his wife pending her reaching 60 years of age. A woman, married or single, is entitled to a pension of 26/- a week at 60 years of age in respect of her own insurance.

A pensioner can draw the pension and still undertake work from which he earns 20/- a week or less. Where the earnings exceed 20/- weekly the amount by which the weekly earnings exceed 20/- will be deducted from the retirement pension.

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Persons already insured

Persons already covered by National Health, Pensions and Unemployment Insurance and persons insured for one or more of those purposes will on the operation of the new Scheme be given credit for their present insurance record, and their prospective right to benefit, by reason of their present insurance, will be ensured on conditions to be laid down in regulations to be made by the Minister. In the same way, persons on benefit at the date of the coming into force of the new Act, or with a right to benefit at that date, will be given the corresponding benefit under the new Act, but again subject to any modifications set out in the Minister's regulations.

Persons insured for the first time under the new Act

Persons insured for the first time must make the specified contributions under the new scheme to qualify for the various benefits. A person insured for the first time under the new Act must complete ten years' insurance before qualifying for a retirement pension. A person reaching pension age before completing the ten years' insurance may elect:

- (i) To continue contributions until the ten years' insurance is completed and thereon qualify for retirement pension, at the full rate, or
- (ii) Reclaim with interest the part of his contributions allocated to retirement pension and have no further claim for a retirement pension.

NOTE: In surrendering the pension claim the insured should remember that he also surrenders his wife's claim to retirement pension on his insurance.

The above shows the general position, but St. Dunstaners will wish to know how they are affected personally and here we are up against the very real difficulty that the Minister has not yet made the regulations which will cover the majority of our men; for instance, we do not know how the Government propose to deal with persons who are in receipt of a Disability Pension at the rate of 100% or less and whether they will ask St. Dunstaners in receipt of the "Unemployable" Supplement to contribute, and if so in which particular class. We also do not know how the Government will deal with overlapping benefits; for instance, whether they will give the full Wife's and Child's Allowances from Insurance funds in addition to the full Wife's and Children's Allowances received from the Ministry of Pensions, or whether if a St. Dunstaner is injured during the course of his employment he will be entitled to the full pension and allowances payable under the Industrial Injuries Act in addition to the Pension and Allowances he receives from the Ministry of Pensions. All we can say at the moment is that when the regulations are published we will let St. Dunstaners know without delay through the medium of the REVIEW. In the meantime, the Government ask that every adult person should be registered under the Scheme, and therefore all St. Dunstaners who are not insured under the present Health or Pensions Insurance and will be under the age of 65 (men) or 60 (women) on July 5th, should obtain Form CF.6 from any Post Office, Employment Exchange or National Insurance Office, should complete the form in the necessary detail and should send or take it to their nearest Employment Exchange as soon as possible.

We have endeavoured to give St. Dunstaners all the information on the subject which is available at the present time, and although it is appreciated a number of men will have their individual problems which will require to be solved, it will be a great help if they refrain from writing to Headquarters until the Minister's regulations have been published and we know the answers to the various conundrums.

H. D. RICE.

TANDEMS WANTED

If any St. Dunstaner wishes to dispose of his tandem, the Editor would be glad to hear from him.

Ovingdean Notes

The Chairman has issued an invitation to men and staff at Ovingdean to join him at a brief reception, where a drink and sandwiches will be served, at 5.30 on Thursday, May 13th, to say goodbye and thank-you to Air Commodore Dacre, retiring Commandant, and to welcome Mr. L. Fawcett, at present in charge of West House, who will take over the additional duties of Commandant at Ovingdean.

Air Commodore Dacre's term of office was for three years to see the training through, but was extended for a further year.

★ ★ ★

Life is full of varied interests here. Besides darts, dominoes, concerts and theatres on alternate Monday evenings, spirited debates not only sharpen wits but deepen and widen thoughts. On the debate, "That Education should not be compulsory," it was agreed that whilst school attendance should certainly be compulsory, real education in the wider sense of a life-long comprehensive experience naturally couldn't be. On other subjects it was agreed "That we are all dishonest," because our standard is too high to maintain without occasional lapses!—and that the "over-fifties" are still needed in responsible positions.

There have been several very enjoyable dances, amongst them one held by the Brighton and Hove Branch of Toc H. The Royal Alexandra Hospital invited a number of trainees to a dance given by the nurses on St. Patrick's Night, which was a huge success.

Since this was the first occasion on which Easter had fallen during the Spring Term, it was rather a problem to arrange entertainment. However, on Easter Saturday, two coaches conveyed racegoers to Plump-ton Races. Although there were no big wins (or losses), everyone enjoyed the afternoon immensely. On Easter Monday, a number of trainees joined West House in their "Scounge Hunt" outing to Poynings. The winning team from Ovingdean caused much amusement at the Dance in the evening by producing some of the "spoils" of the hunt.

We were very pleased to have Col. G. I. Davys here once more to give us an interesting talk on his experiences of the quaint

customs, dress and (unwashen!) habits of Tibet. Col. Davys was at one time District Commissioner in Tibet.

On Tuesday, March 30th, the Ovingdean Rifle Team had a match against the Southwick Rifle Club, the result of which was a win for St. Dunstan's with 197 points against 164 out of a possible 250. The best shots of the evening were Dickie Richardson and Kel Gattrel, who both scored 47 out of a possible 50. Their nearest rival was Mr. Gooding of Southwick, who scored 41. St. Dunstaners' individual scores were as follows:

D. Richardson	47	points	out of	50
K. Gattrel	...	47	..	50
J. Walch	...	38	..	50
R. Pringle	...	34	..	50
G. Killingbeck	31	..	..	50

D. Richardson in a practice shoot scored ten bulls with ten shots. This is the first "possible" that has been scored on the range.

Test Results

Writing Test.—J. Clyde.

Typing Test.—E. Marr, A. Needham, G. Jacobs.

Senior Test.—A. Caldwell, W. Leonard.

News in Brief

W. Burnett, of Gateshead, was well reported in the *Newcastle Journal* recently.

★ ★ ★

Also in the news—Mel Clements and Percy Blackmore, of Newport, who were featured in the *Western Mail* with pictures of them at work on the bench.

★ ★ ★

W. Robinson, of Grantham, presented the prizes at several St. Dunstan's functions at the R.A.F. Station at Cranwell.

★ ★ ★

E. D. Evans, of Caermarthen, won a second and third prize at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show for his vegetables, and a second at the Caermarthen Show.

★ ★ ★

L. Jackson, of Heswall, and his wife are immersed in British Legion work. Jackson, besides his Legion activities, finds time to lecture for St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★

John Straughton is a switchboard operator with the United Steel Companies, and in their Works Bulletin recently there was a magnificent half-page photograph of John at his board. This was followed later by a long story in the *Lancashire Daily Post*.

West House Notes

First of all this month we should like to express our thanks to Jack Sullivan for another of his Concerts. A delightful programme was provided and the inclusion of Arthur Askey and the Western Brothers, who came straight from the stage of the Hippodrome to West House and then had to return for another show, was very much appreciated.

A full and varied programme was arranged for Easter week-end and we were again a very full house. The week-end began with a Variety Show arranged by Mr. Windo Martin and friends, and this got us into the holiday spirit.

On Thursday afternoon we welcomed some of our local St. Dunstaners to West House for a Domino and Whist Drive.

Saturday morning saw us setting out for a day at the Races and, this time some of us teamed up with some of the Ovingdean boys. We came back a little weary and dusty, but, most of us, quite ready for the party in the Lounge that evening.

We are now the proud possessors of a really handsome stage which is erected in the Conservatory as and when required. All the work on this, and it has been very considerable, has been carried out by L. J. Austin (Transport), and it is largely due to his work before Easter that we were able to put on the Staff Show which we called "Spring Fever."

We had a packed house on Sunday evening and a most appreciative audience. Apart from one or two minor "technical hitches," the Show went off with a swing and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves—including those taking part. Little things which happened behind stage, such as an over-anxious dresser starting to change "Prim's" costume when she still had to return to the stage, were jokes which, unfortunately, could not be shared with the audience—but they all added to the merriment of the evening. Those taking part were Mesdames Arnold, Chaddock, Harvey, Holland, Morgan, Pocock, Tizzard, Cox and Guilbert, and Orderlies Webster, Graves, Lower and Ball, and H. A. Mason and, of course, Commandant. In addition to acting as Stage Manager, L. J. Austin took part in the show and the co-producers were Miss Guilbert and Miss Cox. Mrs. Gay Evans, already well known to some of our men, came along to act as pianist.

A vote of thanks to the staff was expressed by Frank Rhodes.

Services were held in the little Chapel, beautifully decorated with spring flowers—Miss Winder and Orderly Howes were responsible for the artistic arrangement of yellow daffodils, blue iris and deep pink tulips. These flowers were sent as an Easter gift by our friends from the Retired Nurses' Home at Roedean. Some lovely arum lilies were also given to us by St. Dunstaner H. Clevitt. The Service on Easter Sunday was taken by the Rev. C. Jarvis and we welcomed as our soloist, for the first time, Dick Slaughter.

The monthly Communion, conducted by the Rev. Taylor, was also very well attended.

The holiday week-end finished with a special Treasure Hunt during Monday afternoon, and a dance in the evening.

The following morning we said goodbye to many of our friends as the workers went back to their jobs, fortified, we hope, by an enjoyable short holiday at West House.

Derby Sweepstake, 1948

Once again we invite applications for tickets in the REVIEW's own Derby Sweepstake which is open only to St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees.

Tickets will again be 2s. 6d. each and applications for them can be made at once and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 21st**. Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 9-11 Park Crescent, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered.

The total amount of the money subscribed, after the cost of printing and postage has been deducted, will be distributed as follows:

- 50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.
- 20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.
- 10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.
- 20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

“ In Memory ”

Private John Brockerton, 10th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

With deep regret we record the death of J. Brockerton, of Coleraine.

After losing his sight in France during the 1914-1918 war, he came to St. Dunstan's, where he trained as a poultry farmer and mat-maker, and he carried on these occupations for many years, only giving up mat-making in 1937. He was a most cheerful and lovable personality and his passing is keenly mourned by a host of friends.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral and Mr. N. S. Macauley represented St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family. Mr. and Mrs. Brockerton celebrated their golden wedding on December 31st last.

A.B. Harry Pilsbury, Royal Naval Division

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. A. Pilsbury, of Loughborough, which occurred suddenly on March 11th.

Enlisting in July, 1917, he was wounded in France in 1918, when in addition to his loss of sight, he also had his right leg amputated. He was trained as a telephonist but did not take up a position, preferring to follow his own interests.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and son who, fortunately, has just left the Services.

Private Edward Brownfoot, 2nd Hampshire Regt.

With deep regret we record the death of E. Brownfoot, of Renfrew.

He served from October, 1914, and was wounded in France in April, 1918, and he came to us the following November. He was trained first as a poultry farmer and later as a telephonist, and he continued with this work for many years, in spite of indifferent health. For some considerable time he had not been able to work and there were long periods when he was in hospital and at our Homes. He expressed a strong desire to go to his own home and he died there on March 10th.

Miss Wood Social Visitor, represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral, and a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was among the flowers.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Brownfoot.

Gordon Kellie Stobie, 9th South African Infantry

We have heard with deep regret from Mrs. Chadwick Bates that G. K. Stobie, of Cape Town, died on November 9th, 1947. This South African St. Dunstaner came to us in 1917. Training as a masseur, he practised in this capacity and as a chiropractic until the time of his death, which was most unexpected.

Our sympathy is extended to his family.

J. Wallance Green (Canadian Forces)

The news has only just reached us from Canada of the death of J. Wallance Green, of Ottawa, which occurred as far back as 1941. This St. Dunstaner was blinded at Port Arthur and came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1918. He began his training as a masseur here, and completed it at Pearson Hall, securing a higher percentage of marks than any other student at McGill University in one part of his examinations.

He took the keenest interest in his profession, although for some years before his death we had received little news of him.

Mrs. Ashworth wishes to thank St. Dunstan's, staff and friends for the great kindness shown to her in her sad bereavement. Their letters of sympathy have been a help, and the regard in which her late husband was held, an inspiration.

Births

ANDROLIA.—On March 30th, to the wife of A. Androlia, of Walsall, a son.

COONEY.—On February 22nd, to the wife of J. Cooney, of Worthing, a daughter—Josephine Mary.

FAULKNER.—On February 11th, to the wife of W. D. Faulkner, of Smethwick, a daughter—Peggy Anne.

FLEISIG.—On February 26th, to the wife of D. Fleisig, of Orpington, a son—Trevor Derek.

NEWALL.—On February 12th, to the wife of H. Newall, of Manchester, a daughter—Maureen Elizabeth.

A Record ?

With the birth of his sixth child, Captain J. M. O. Barstow wonders whether he holds the record, among officers of both wars, for the highest number of children.

Marriages

GRANSBY—SHERIDAN.—On March 27th, H. G. Gransby, of Hillingdon, to Miss Winifred Sheridan.

ROAKE.—On March 28th, G. Roake, of Peckham.

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Peacey, of New Southgate (March 31st).

Grandfathers

A. T. Brooks, of Bournemouth, E. D. Evans, of Caermarthen, R. Gunson, of Dewsbury, and, for the tenth time, J. Lavell, of Hereford!

Great-Grandfather

A. Morris, of Pontypridd.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 350—VOLUME XXXI [NEW SERIES]

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

AT a meeting of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's, held on May 7th, 1948, it was proposed by Captain Appleby, seconded by Sir Neville Pearson, and unanimously resolved "That the Council places on record its appreciation of the services rendered by Air Commodore Dacre, C.B.E., D.S.O., to St. Dunstan's as Commandant of the Training Centre at Church Stretton, and later at Ovingdean, during the period April 22nd, 1944, to May 15th, 1948, and for his exceptional contribution to the work in carrying out the re-organisation and modernisation of the training system, the re-opening of St. Dunstan's at Ovingdean, the planning of the trainees' career and settlement services, and the supervision of St. Dunstan's special work for the doubly handicapped and of inventions and research."

In these terms the Council of St. Dunstan's paid their tribute to Air Commodore Dacre, who came to us for the three years' appointment but, at our request, stayed for four, and was more largely responsible than any other person for the organisation of St. Dunstan's re-education and training during the second world war. The Commandant brought to his work much service experience and great administrative gifts, and leaves us with a smoothly running organisation. There have been unexpectedly large numbers coming to St. Dunstan's since the war ended, so that Ovingdean is still full, and nineteen Australians will be on the way shortly to join us for the Autumn Term. Training will thus go on actively for another year or two, and on a diminishing scale for some time, but the constructive work of building up the organisation, introducing new occupations, finding new staff and new methods has been done.

Mrs. Dacre, too, contributed much to St. Dunstan's, helping her husband and using their house near the Training Centre for much charming entertainment; she also initiated the scheme to lend St. Dunstaners' brides wedding frocks and veils, and I am glad to say she will carry this on. Air Commodore Dacre, too, will continue his connection with St. Dunstan's, for he has kindly volunteered to remain chairman of our Experimental Workshop Committee and to act as liaison between this Committee and our Scientific Committee.

I should like to place on record my personal thanks to the retiring Commandant and his wife for the extremely able services they have rendered to St. Dunstan's, and I am sure that the organisation as a whole and particularly those who went through their period of training during his term of office would join in expressing their appreciation and wishing them both the best of good luck.

Miss Oliphant

Miss Oliphant, the After-Care Visitor for the West of England for the last thirteen years, has left the service of St. Dunstan's, owing to staff re-organisation, and her place has been

taken by Miss Webster, who has for the past two years, been the Southern Area Superintendent in the Welfare Department. I have received many charming letters regarding Miss Oliphant's leaving, saying what wonderful work she did for our men and their families in the West Country. I express, on behalf of St. Dunstan's as a whole, and particularly the West Country men, our sincere thanks to Miss Oliphant and our best wishes for the future.

Club at New Headquarters

We are glad to say that the rooms which have been set aside for the Club will be ready on May 31st. The Club will be situated on the entrance floor, and consists of three fairly large rooms (all inter-communicating) with two smaller rooms and a small Club kitchen, from which tea, coffee, cakes, etc., can be served at reasonable prices. We propose that the Club shall be open from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays. It will, of course, be primarily used by men living within a radius of, say, ten miles of Marylebone Road, but all St. Dunstaners, wherever they may live, will always be welcome when passing through London.

The Club is intended to make available a place in which St. Dunstaners can meet each other and join in Club life, including whist drives, bridge, dominoes, etc., and at which arrangements can be made for swimming and any other activity in which St. Dunstaners may be interested. It is thought that the men would like to organise and run the Club themselves through the medium of a Committee, with possibly sub-Committees for the various interests, and different nights and rooms can be set aside for particular interests. It would, we think, be an advantage if a member of Headquarters staff could sit on the Committee to help and advise, and it would obviously also be an advantage if the personnel of the Committee were restricted to men living within, say, a ten mile radius, who would be comparatively regular in their attendance.

Mr. Willis, who has been appointed Manager of the Club, resides at the new Headquarters, as he is also responsible for the care of the building. He will be in regular attendance on all Club nights, and Mr. Dawkins will also devote a considerable part of his time to Club activities and a V.A.D. will be appointed to help. In addition, we shall, I am sure, continue to have a band of devoted voluntary helpers in the same way as we used to have in pre-war days.

I invite men to visit the Club during the week commencing May 31st, and to attend a meeting there at 6.30 p.m. on June 8th, when the matter can be fully discussed and the first Committee elected. St. Dunstaners willing to serve on the Committee can be proposed and seconded at the meeting and elections can be made by a show of hands.

St. Dunstaners will be gratified to know that part of a generous gift made by the Royal Air Force has been, with the consent of the Air Council, earmarked for equipping and maintaining the Club, and that Mr. Willis, the Club Manager, saw long service with the R.A.F.

IAN FRASER.

Their Majesties' Silver Wedding

The following telegram was sent to Their Majesties on the occasion of their Silver Wedding:—

"St. Dunstan's Council and blinded officers and men throughout the Empire send loyal greetings and congratulations to Your Majesties."

NEVILLE PEARSON, *President*.

and the following reply was received:—

President, St. Dunstan's:—

"Please convey the sincere thanks of the King and Queen to the Council, officers and men of St. Dunstan's for their kind and loyal message on the occasion of Their Majesties' Silver Wedding."

PRIVATE SECRETARY,

Masonic

Freemason St. Dunstaners who were at Church Stretton during 1942-5 may be interested to know that Mr. C. E. Beaufoy, more familiarly known as "Grandpa," is to be elected as a Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon, at the June meeting of the Provincial Lodge of Kent. Mr. Beaufoy is a Past Master of the Peace and Harmony Lodge, 199, Dover, and he joined the Lodge in 1902.

Derby Sweepstake

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake, which closed on May 21st, will take place at No. 12 Park Crescent on Tuesday, June 1st. All drawing horses will be notified by letter the following day.

British Legion Conference

Sir Ian Fraser was returned unopposed as National President of the British Legion at the Whitsuntide Conference.

In his address, the President said: "Inflation hurts all and especially the man or woman living on a small income, and the pensioner, but our disabled comrades have already been left behind in the inflation spiral and something must be done for them. All who suffer disability, even minor disabilities, find that they become harder to bear as they get older. I would like to see a rise in the basic rate," he said, and called for a national campaign to be pressed in Parliament and the constituencies.

The Conference demanded £4 10s. a week minimum for those disabled in the highest degree.

Resolutions were passed calling attention to the unemployment of disabled men and women, and to the fact that thousands of young men who had married since they returned from the war could not get homes.

Ernest Russell, a St. Dunstan's telephone operator, representing the West Riding of Yorkshire, moved a resolution asking the Government to declare that telephone operating was a designated occupation for the disabled. It should be kept for them and for no one else, he said. This was carried.

Ex-Prisoners of War Meet

Lord Normanby's Reunion

At the beginning of April, Lord Normanby gave a very happy little Reunion dinner party at the Café Royal, Regent Street, to nearly twenty St. Dunstaners and their escorts. These St. Dunstaners were prisoners of war with Lord Normanby in Germany, and it was a fine opportunity for them all to get together and revive old friendships.

Lord Normanby learnt braille himself in order that he might teach it to our men while they were still in the prison camp, and at this dinner party he presented a silver cigarette case to all those who had passed his braille reading test in Germany.

Mr. Mackay, General Welfare Superintendent, was also present to meet the guests.

Lord Normanby is now a member of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's.

Reunions Again

Reunions have begun. At Leicester, on April 9th, the Lord Mayor (Councillor J. N. Frears), welcomed the guests, with the Lady Mayoress, and the Chairman of the Leicestershire and Rutland British Legion Council, Mr. George V. Briggs, who was a welcome visitor last year, was again present. Portsmouth's Lord Mayor, Councillor F. Miles, J.P., who attended with the Lady Mayoress, presided at Kimbell's Café, Southsea, on April 20th, and the British Legion was represented by Lt.-Col. H. V. Young, County Vice-President. The Bournemouth meeting was at Bobby's Restaurant, on the 22nd, and the guests were welcomed by the Mayor, Councillor J. W. Moore, J.P., Brigadier General A. J. F. Eden, County Vice-President of the British Legion, was also a guest. At Norwich, on May 4th, the Lord Mayor, Alderman W. G. Cutbush, presided, with the Lady Mayoress, and Legion representatives were Mr. G. W. Barnard, Hon. Secretary, Norfolk Branch, and Mr. W. J. Burman, Vice-Chairman, Norfolk County Committee. On May 6th men from Colchester and the surrounding districts met at Wright's Restaurant, where they were welcomed by the Mayor, Councillor Leonard E. Dansie, J.P., with whom was the Mayoress, and the guests included Mr. C. H. Harris, Chairman, Essex County British Legion, and Mr. G. B. Herbert, Vice-Chairman of the Colchester Branch.

Mr. A. Mackay has attended all meetings.

Mr. Game

We must apologise for a most stupid error which crept into our last issue. In the note of the removal to the new Headquarters, Mr. Game's name was given twice as "Mr. Cane." This should, of course, have been "Mr. Game," and the last paragraph should have read:—

"The mat makers are informed that, whilst they should send their mats to Crown Place, all orders for raw materials, and all correspondence with Mr. Game, should be sent to No. 191 Marylebone Road."

Thirty Years Ago

From "St. Dunstan's Review," May, 1918:—

Bill: "This blinkin' sea's orful!"

'Arry: "O, I dunno. It's nice to see froth on somethink these days!"—*Punch*.

Railway Concessions

Sir Ian Fraser has received the following reply from the British Transport Commission with regard to increasing railway facilities for the blind. Sir Ian's letter to the Minister of Transport was printed in last month's REVIEW.

British Transport Commission,
55 Broadway, S.W.1.

DEAR SIR IAN FRASER,

In the absence of my Chairman on business, I am replying on his behalf to the letter you sent to the Minister of Transport on March 31st.

The Railway Executive have considered the case you have put forward, noting in particular the information which you have been good enough to furnish regarding facilities afforded to blind persons in the Dominions and the United States. It is, of course, always possible to argue that more should be done by various public institutions to assist blind and otherwise disabled persons, and I can assure you that the Commission are very conscious of the effect of these people's disabilities when it comes to their travelling on any part of our system. The very wide concessions already allowed to blind persons reflect this feeling, and they do, in fact, considerably exceed the facilities available to other disabled persons. If the question of further facilities to blind persons were to be considered, we should undoubtedly have to enlarge the concessions available to others unable to enjoy normal life and mobility.

There is, moreover, the over-riding consideration that the railways, in the face of rising costs, must maintain their revenue, and there is no provision whereby we can suffer considerable reductions in revenue by making concessions in particular meritorious cases and recoup the loss from other classes of traveller.

A number of representations have recently been made to extend your people's fare concessions to journeys for holiday purposes and for visits to Blind Holiday or Convalescent Homes, but I am afraid that, in the circumstances described, these have to be answered in the same way—that it is much regretted that the present arrangements cannot be extended in this manner at the present time.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) I. L. HENDERSON.

Sir Ian has received a letter on the same subject from T. Floyd, of Teignmouth, who puts forward the case of a sighted escort accompanying a blind person on a journey, say, to a holiday home, who does not necessarily wish to remain at the destination town. In this case, there is the fare for the journey back and a further fare when the escort goes to fetch the blind person at the end of the holiday. Any travel warrant, therefore, Floyd says, would have to include a ticket for the escort to make the extra journey also. He ends: "As far as blinded ex-Servicemen are concerned, it is, in my

opinion, clearly an obligation upon the State to bear the cost of travelling companions' fares, as part of compensation for disablement sustained while serving the State."

B.B.C. Programmes— A Suggestion

Sir Ian Fraser recently received a letter from Miss Hodge, a Home Teacher in Reading, suggesting that the B.B.C. should each day broadcast especially for the blind a short programme of extracts from the daily Press. Sir Ian put forward this suggestion to Sir William Haley, Director-General of the B.B.C. Sir William Haley, in his reply, agreed that blind listeners have an exceptional claim to consideration, but he added: "I think the overwhelming difficulty about the proposal for an additional news programme is that of space. The ordinary news bulletin, which lasts for fifteen minutes, admittedly deals only with what may be called headline news, and the object of the present proposal is, presumably, to cover all the less important news for which space is found in an ordinary newspaper. Unless such a bulletin were to be merely trivial, I do not see how it could cover the ground. A supplement to the main news bulletin is, of course, to be found now in the Radio News Reel at seven o'clock in the Light Programme, and I should think that this must be of considerable interest to blind listeners.

"I do not think that broadcasting is really a suitable medium for minor news of the kind which finds its way into the less conspicuous columns of the newspapers."

Braille Reading Tests

Elementary.—F. Broomfield, T. Milligan.

Advanced.—T. Milligan.

Senior.—T. Milligan, R. J. Vine, J. G. Holmes, L. Arnold, J. Macfarlane, G. P. Brown, G. D. Warden, W. T. Scott, R. Rhodes, A. Cartwright, A. Bradley, F. Collingwood.

Holiday Camp

Lee-on-Solent Holiday Camp, Friday, August 6th-13th. Camp fee of £1, payable in camp; fares over 15s. refunded. Closing date for entries, June 30th.

AVIS SPURWAY.
Holmwood Vicarage, Dorking.

Easter Sunday at Northgate House

It was a perfect Easter Sunday morning. We quickly washed and dressed ourselves and went to the nursery to await the bell that told us breakfast was ready. When grace had been said, we sat down and ate our porridge, afterwards, to our surprise, we each had a coloured egg—some had red ones, others green.

After breakfast the young ones went into the nursery, while the others prepared for church. After the lovely service we walked home by the undercliff, sometimes we stopped for a little while and played on the beach. Then we walked quietly home, through the village to Northgate House, where we washed ourselves and brushed our hair ready for dinner.

Dinner consisted of roast lamb, baked potatoes, greens and gravy, followed by a fruit salad. After dinner we went upstairs for an hour's rest. At 2.30 we got up and tidied our hair.

After a beautiful car ride we picked primroses in the woods. We had a lovely time. After a while we sat down to eat our cakes and drink our grapefruit.

We hurried home to prepare for tea, which consisted of cold meat and salad, followed by cakes. After tea we either played in the garden or sat and read in the nursery until it was time for our baths. After which we went to bed, where we immediately fell to sleep, feeling very tired but extremely happy.

PAMELA HODGMAN.
(Aged 14).

Grandfathers

A. Bennett, Dover; H. Bowen, Treine, Pembrokeshire; T. E. Gidney, Morden (to a Leap Year Day baby).

"Whereas I Was Blind"— a Norwegian Translation

With the permission of Sir Ian Fraser and the publishers, "Whereas I Was Blind" is to be translated into Norwegian and sold for the benefit of the organisation for the blind in Norway.

Blackpool Notes

Blackpool notes begin with a cloudy item—quite a butter-milky one. It has been freely stated in the Press that Blackpool St. Dunstan's received tickets for the Cup Final. This is a mis-statement; no tickets were received. G. A. Jolly certainly did attend the Final, escorted by Miss Davies (the linen room sister), but the tickets which they used were privately acquired, Jolly being the lucky recipient each year of two tickets for the Cup Final. So that's that. Now let us peep over the tiny cloud.

On April 9th Sir Ian and Lady Fraser paid us a visit which lasted above three hours. They lunched with us in the dining room. Then came Sir Ian's talk, followed by his personal contacts with the men. Matron interpreted Sir Ian's talk to Joe Jordan by manual signs; Joe appreciated this very much. A praiseworthy action, too, on the part of Sister Barnett, minor. She, mounted, and with a guiding rein hitched to Joe's mount, cantered with him along the Blackpool sands. Plucky Joe. Valiant Sister.

Now another thrill. Joe Walch's daughter, Joan, was married, on April 24th, to R. Osborne (new war). Joe came to Blackpool after—don't ask me why—and everybody in the Annexe had a glass of port—on Joe. We wished the happy couple "all the best," congratulated Joe, and have high hopes for the future. If any other St. Dunstaner has either a son or a daughter marrying (either will suit us), then do please call at Wimbourne Place.

Another great gift came to us from the Leicester Brewery—per W. Biggs, a barrel of beer, and it received a very hearty welcome. Times here have been very pleasant; many old pals are still kicking around. Joe Walch, Joe Clare, Bert Taylor, Sankey, Taff Williams, Markwick, and many more are getting nearer to Methuselah's age, but still mustering. Past events augur well for those spending their vacation here this summer. The stalls along the Front are beginning to preen themselves; gay colours are going up all around; Matron Davies and the Sisters are stropping their wits and swotting over the book of wisecracks—and you'll get them in abundance, while the unfinished cats have now reduced their size to around four to six inches.

So—Come down and see us some time.
W. E. B.

Ovingdean Notes

We have welcomed to Ovingdean this month Mr. H. Carlesater, a Swedish Welfare Officer, who intends to publish an article on St. Dunstan's when he returns to his own country, and also a Norwegian basket instructor who is blind, Mr. Heian.

Mr. Mugford gave a most interesting talk on April 1st on his experiences while serving with the Federation of British Industries.

On April 3rd, the Belvedere Sports Club invited a number of trainees and their partners to a dance at Hove Town Hall. There were various competitions during the evening, and Ted Brown did exceedingly well in winning a Crooning Competition! The outstanding dance of this month was given by the Sussex Masonic Lodges at the Royal Pavilion on April 14th. All St. Dunstaners from West House and Ovingdean were invited. Dancing followed an excellent dinner and concert.

The efficient partnership of Les White as Musical Organiser and our "Killie" as driving force brought about the very enjoyable sing-songs throughout the term, culminating in a show on April 7th. This Concert was the entirely unofficial work of trainees and staff thrown together in overtime. Not only did rousing choruses, sea-shanties and the perennial favourites carry the programme with a swing, but several young soloists made a successful début. Our stalwarts, Sid Kitson and Joe Walch delighted us and it was good to see Tommy Rogers as young as ever at his clubs. An *original* sketch by "Television" (!) of life on a desert island was produced under incredible difficulties. At its close the Company's appreciation of Miss Winifred Putt, Matron's Secretary, was shown in a little token presentation.

The Rifle Range is a popular recreation. On April 13th a match took place between St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, and a team from Brighton Telephones. St. Dunstan's won by 225 points to 211; the highest scores of the evening were attained by F. Ralph, St. Dunstan's, and H. Munford, Brighton Telephones, both scoring 47 out of a possible 50. D. Richardson and C. Campkin followed with 45 and L. Davis, 42.

A match the following evening, between St. Dunstan's Blind Instructors and Trainees resulted in a win for the trainees by 202 points to 194. Results:—

Instructors

K. Gatrell	...	...	46	out of possible	50
F. Ralph	...	...	45	"	50
L. Davis	...	...	43	"	50
G. Killingbeck	...	...	18	"	50

Trainees

D. Richardson	...	...	46	out of possible	50
C. Campkin	...	...	44	"	50
S. Brooks	...	...	42	"	50
H. Langton	...	...	40	"	50
R. Slade	...	...	30	"	50

A large number of the senior staff are included in those leaving at the end of this term, amongst whom are Mr. I. F. Anderson, Miss M. M. Mortimer, O.B.E., and Miss M. Wheaton, as well as a flow-out of many trainees who will be going to their jobs. We wish them all good fortune.

Presentation to Commandant

Men and staff at Ovingdean filled the Music Room on the evening of Thursday, May 13th, to attend a party on the invitation of Sir Ian Fraser, to say goodbye to Air Commodore Dacre, retiring Commandant, and Mrs. Dacre.

They drank a toast, wishing them good health and good luck, and rounded it off with "For they are Jolly Good Fellows."

Sir Ian Fraser handed the Commandant a silver cigarette box, inscribed "Presented to Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, C.B.E., D.S.O., by St. Dunstan's, in appreciation of his services as Commandant, 1944-1948," and said this conveyed the thanks of the Council and of men and staff for the able and devoted work he had done.

One of the attractive features of St. Dunstan's, Sir Ian continued, was that, wherever you went, in almost every town and village in this country and overseas, there were St. Dunstaners or St. Dunstan's connections. Air Commodore Dacre had a large family all over the world who would remember their training during his term of office and would remain his firm friends.

Air Commodore Dacre, replying, said he thanked the Chairman and Council for the cigarette box, which he would always value. He thanked the men and staff alike for their loyalty and support. He had been very happy at St. Dunstan's, and it has been an honour to work for an organisation which had such a wonderful spirit. In his future activities, which would be associated with the air, in which element he had spent his life, he would always remember St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners. He wished them au revoir.

West House Notes

On Sunday, April 4th, an undenominational hour of community hymn singing and a simple service was provided by the brethren of the R.A.O.B. under the Grand Lodge of England. Members from all parts of Sussex, and their wives, attended.

The Ovingdean boys gave a concert in their music hut on the 7th, to which Matron and representatives from West House were invited. They enjoyed it so much that a special request was made for them to put on a "repeat" performance at West House on the 13th. The cast arrived in time for a game of dominoes and supper with our men before they retired to get ready for the concert. It was a really excellent show.

West House was almost completely deserted on the night of the 14th, as nearly every man went to the Annual Masonic Dinner in the Pavilion. The variety concert which followed was arranged and compèred by Jack Sullivan. Many prizes were presented for novelty numbers, meanwhile there was a running buffet, but needless to say, no prizes were needed to induce anyone to partake of the delicious "eats." Speeches were made by the Mayor of Brighton, the Mayor of Hove, Air Commodore Dacre, and Mr. Fawcett, and a vote of thanks on behalf of the men of West House was given by Jock Boyd.

We were "all aboard" in the conservatory for a pleasure cruise with members of the Animal Clinic on April 15th, who presented a non-stop revue. Our thanks to the cast for producing a well-dressed, light-hearted show.

The Toc H Blind Club came along on the 17th to tea and a Domino Tournament, which was won by St. Dunstan's.

On the 23rd we received an invitation from the R.N.O.C.A. to a dance at Princes Ballroom, which was much enjoyed.

We would like especially to mention Sid Kitson, from Ovingdean, for his delightful solo at our chapel service on April 25th.

Robert Carr and his Company gave us a most enjoyable evening on the 29th, when he presented two mystery plays.

Austin is getting busy arranging his tours for the summer. He has thought out nine different routes of varying length to beauty spots and places of historical interest. The first of these outings was arranged for May 14th, and from then we are hoping to be able to arrange two or three a week.

In the News

From the "Tatler":

"I have news from South Africa, this time from the musical world, about that courageous and plucky singer, Beryl Sleigh, who though blinded in one of the London blitzes continues her musical career. She has recently been on a concert tour in South Africa, where she was a tremendous success and was given a wonderful reception when she made her first appearance in Cape Town. The South Africans were greatly impressed with her lovely contralto voice and perfect diction. She then went on to Johannesburg, where she sang with the Johannesburg City Orchestra; here again she had a rapturous reception. From here she went on to sing at Durban.

During this tour, Miss Sleigh, who was accompanied by her friend and accompanist, Miss Dorene Furness, made many broadcasts, including a fifteen-minute song recital.

With her return to England I know everyone will wish her every success in her forthcoming engagements and her musical career."

Beryl Sleigh frequently helps St. Dunstan's by singing at efforts in aid of our organisation and will in future undertake speaking engagements as well.

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Placements

G. R. Bickley, in a shop at Bexley; S. S. Brooks, of Welwyn, on assembly with Murphy Radio; P. Campbell, in a shop in London, S.W.17; A. Curnow, in a shop at Bexleyheath; L. Faulkner, Northwich, on assembly with I.C.I.; S. Fletcher, in a shop at Tooting; R. Holmes, Croydon, as an upholsterer with Messrs. Howard Price, Ltd.; B. Lewandowski and A. Puzdrowski as capstan operators with Messrs. Chamberlain & Hookham, Birmingham; J. J. Palmer, Leicester, on inspection work with Messrs. Armstrong Siddeley Motors; G. Reed, in a shop at Weybridge; T. Rosewarne as a drilling operator with the Cumbria Tool Co., Workington; J. Swan, in the shop at Leicester previously run by G. R. Bickley.

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Burtenshaw, West Moors, April 25th.

“ In Memory ”

Private James Fay, 8th Hussars

With deep regret we record the death of Jimmy Fay, who has, for so many years, been a permanent resident of our Brighton Home.

After serving during the first World War, he came to us in November 1920, but he was never strong enough for heavy work, owing to his poor health. He died at West House on April 8th, but, at his express wish, he was taken to his home for burial. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's colleagues was among the many flowers.

Our sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Sergeant John L. Jarmay, Royal Army Service Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. L. Jarmay, of Malpas, Cheshire, who has been with us for only a very short time. He was transferred from Chester Military Hospital, where he had been for some considerable time after his war service, to West House. He was then a very sick man, but he enjoyed his stay. He was taken to the Sussex County Hospital, but a few hours afterwards he died there.

A wreath was sent for the funeral from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades. He was buried from his own home, and the coffin was covered with a Union Jack when it left Brighton. Men employed on his farm drew him on a farm cart, as is customary in his family.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his mother and fiancée.

Private James Rendell, Oxford and Bucks Regt.

With deep regret we record the death of J. Rendell, of Tiverton, who came to St. Dunstan's in 1921, where he trained as a poultry farmer.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Robert Usher, 7th Durham Light Infantry

With deep regret we record the death of R. Usher, of Sunderland.

He enlisted on September 1st, 1914, receiving his discharge in July, 1918. He was a prisoner of war in Germany for two years, and he was blinded there as the result of an explosion. He came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1918, and became first a boot repairer and mat-maker, and later a shop keeper.

He had recently only been able to do very light work, as gassing had left him a very sick man. He died at his home on March 28th.

A poppy wreath from St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral, and among his old comrades present was Frank Green, who trained at St. Dunstan's with him.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Usher and his family.

Alexander Dewar Kelley, Australian Forces

We have heard with regret from Elmer Glew that our Australian St. Dunstaner, A. Kelley, passed away some time ago. No other details are available.

Births

BARTON.—On April 16th, to the wife of S. Barton, of Liverpool, a daughter.

COLLINGWOOD.—On April 22nd, to the wife of F. Collingwood, of Leek, a daughter—Patricia.

EVANS.—On April 13th, to the wife of T. Evans, of Holywell, a daughter—Anwen Victoria.

HERBERT.—On April 27th, to the wife of R. Herbert, of Bracknell, a son—Clyde Leonard John.

MITCHELL.—On April 20th, to the wife of A. C. Mitchell, of Southall, a daughter—Susan Dorothy.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

HAMILTON.—To Ben Hamilton, of Thetford, whose wife passed away in hospital on April 26th.

JONES.—To Vere Jones, of Northwich, whose brother died on March 18th. He

had always lived with Mr. and Mrs. Jones, and he and our St. Dunstaner had served together in the same regiment.

STRUTT.—To Mr. and Mrs. G. Strutt, of Sheffield, whose baby was born on April 9th, but died at birth.

Marriages

BURNETT—FEAST.—On April 26th, W. Burnett to Miss Phyllis Feast, of Brighton.

MOONEY—SULLIVAN.—On May 19th, J. J. Mooney, to Miss Sullivan.

OSBORNE—WALCH.—On April 24th, R. Osborne, to Joan Walch (daughter of our St. Dunstaner).

PHILLIPS—HAYNES.—On April 24th, Ron Phillips, late of London and now of Shoreham, to Miss Phoebe Haynes, V.A.D.

SHEPHERD—CROMARTY.—On May 8th, G. W. R. Shepherd, of Bayswater, to Miss June Cromarty.

ROAKE—OFFEN.—On March 28th, G. Roake, now of Catford, to Miss Lily Offen.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 351—VOLUME XXXI [NEW SERIES]

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS to St. Dunstaner Patrick Garrity, who was telephone operator at the British Legion Headquarters from September, 1919, to September, 1947, on being awarded the British Empire Medal. A wide circle of St. Dunstaners and of ex-Service men generally will remember his cheerful welcome to all who called up the British Legion.

Another St. Dunstaner who received the British Empire Medal is W. A. Biggs, of Leicester, who has acted as St. Dunstan's Voluntary Organiser in that area for a number of years and has raised over £10,000 in aid of its funds. Congratulations to him.

Congratulations also to Sir Brunel Cohen, who becomes a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for his work as Chairman of the National Advisory Council on the Employment of the Disabled. Limbless himself, he was the Member of Parliament to be returned in the 1918 Election to take up the cause of ex-Service men, and he has made their welfare his life's work. He was for twenty-five years Honorary Treasurer of the British Legion, and for twenty-four years has been a Member of the Council of St. Dunstan's, and has been a familiar figure at many of our gatherings.

The New London Club—A Warning

The new Club at 191 Marylebone Road is now in use. It opened unofficially on Monday, May 31st, and on Tuesday, June 8th a number of the London men gathered to discuss the details of the Club and to elect a Committee. A full report of the proceedings is printed elsewhere.

We warned St. Dunstaners in the April issue of the REVIEW that in view of the fast moving traffic in Marylebone Road, they and their escorts should take particular care in approaching Headquarters from the opposite side of Marylebone Road.

There is a Belisha crossing a few yards away from Headquarters and Mr. Askew—because he was mindful of the danger—asked the Ministry of Transport whether warning signs could be erected to show motorists that they were in the vicinity of a building used by war-blinded men and women and whether a press-button traffic signal which would stop traffic could be installed outside the building.

The matter was investigated by the Regional Engineers, but they advised that no special steps could be taken. The press-button signal was impracticable in view of the weight of traffic, and special warning notices for blind people could not be erected as to do so would attract applications from other sections of the community, and a widespread variety of notices all over the country would tend to make motorists ignore them.

I felt that this matter should be reviewed at the highest level and wrote a personal letter to the Minister about it. The Minister asked senior officials of his Department to consider the matter and they spent some time in investigating the problem on the spot.

They, however, advised the Minister and me that no special precautions could be taken which would have the effect of making the road safer for St. Dunstaners, and they stressed, as we have done, the warning that our men should not attempt to cross the road by themselves, but should always be accompanied by an escort and use existing Belisha crossings.

In Parliament

As I write this note on June 9th, we have just concluded the Committee stage of the Finance Bill, the legislation that puts into force the provisions of the Budget. We had a gruelling time in the House, including two nights when we got home in the early hours, and two all-night sittings. Amongst many hundreds of subjects varying from the tax on beer to Imperial preference, there were three items in which I took a hand which I think will be of interest to ex-Service men generally and St. Dunstaners particularly.

I moved a new clause to take the Purchase Tax off motor cars bought by 100 per cent. pensioners. There were, I said, two reasons for this new clause. Firstly, I wanted the three-wheeler motor invalid chair, now provided by the Ministry for a limited number of paraplegic and other limbless men, withdrawn and a small four-seater car substituted. An eight-horse-power Ford, Morris or Austin would cost no more than a three-wheeled chair and would give more comfort, better protection and greater safety. But if a normal vehicle like this was provided, then the wife, or members of the family, might use it and it might be considered that Purchase Tax should have been paid. It would, I said, be ungenerous to these men to deny them a four-seater vehicle for this reason; that was why my clause included the words, "Primarily for the use of ex-Service men," so that the motor car could also be used on occasions by his family. The other reason for taking the Purchase Tax off was that many 100 per cent. pensioners needed a car for business or pleasure, or both. Purchase Tax did not hurt the rich, but greatly handicapped the poor, and the men for whom I was speaking could not, in many cases, afford the high price of a car, especially with Purchase Tax on it. The Government refused the concession, but it was stated that the Minister of Pensions was considering replacing the three-wheelers by four-wheelers and that he was getting out a scheme to provide such vehicles in cases where all the man's circumstances, including the nature of his disability and business, would warrant it. Although we pressed the Financial Secretary to give details he would not do so, but said that the Minister of Pensions would shortly be making a statement. I accordingly put down a question to ask for further details, and this will, I hope, have been answered by the time these words go to press. Whether the proposed concession will go far enough to be of value to a wider group of severely disabled men including St. Dunstaners, I do not know; we must wait and see.

Disabled Person's Housekeeper

At one in the morning, I had a go at the Government to agree to an Income Tax allowance of £50 per annum in respect of a blind or crippled person's companion or housekeeper. Such an allowance is made for every man's wife, but if he has no wife or family to look after him but only a housekeeper, the disabled man does not get the allowance. Many lonely blind or crippled people, I said, were in this plight and they ought to be relieved. The Financial Secretary rejected this.

Purchase Tax on Baskets

At five a.m. on the last day, I sought to get the Purchase Tax taken off all baskets. Mr. White, head of our Basket Department, and Mr. Burman, Instructor at Ovingdean, had given me particulars on various points. Baskets made by trainees at Ovingdean, even though they were only beginners' baskets and below normal trade standards, were subject to Purchase Tax; I asked the Government to see to this. Baskets with a wooden bottom were taxed at the rate of sixty-six and two thirds per cent., whereas the same baskets made wholly of willow or cane were only taxed at thirty-three and a third per cent. The best thing was to take the tax off baskets altogether, because almost all baskets were utility articles and it was a small home industry in which a number of disabled and blinded persons work. I had been informed that 25 per cent. of St. Dunstaners could not make many of these baskets satisfactorily unless they had a wooden bottom. Similar arguments apply, of course, to Lord

Roberts' Workshops and other disabled men's factories, and to other articles apart from baskets.

The Government gave these pleas a sympathetic hearing and stated they would look into both points, namely, the tax on trainees' baskets, and the higher tax on those that had a wooden bottom.*

All-night Sittings

Many think all-night sittings are rather ridiculous and ask why we cannot manage our affairs more sensibly. I often think this myself, but on reflection I realise that if Government could fix the hours of debate and limit discussion, we should be approaching an authoritarian regime and ours would cease to be a free Parliament. This thought, together with a cup of coffee and some sausages, are some comfort when you have been sitting for thirteen hours and dawn is breaking.

IAN FRASER.

Employment of the Blind

A Working Party Appointed

Mr. George Isaacs, the Minister of Labour, announced in the House of Commons on June 1st that he had set up a working party "to investigate the facilities existing for the employment of blind persons in industry and in public and other services, and to make recommendations for their development."

Mr. W. G. Askew, O.B.E., Secretary of St. Dunstan's, Mr. W. McG. Eagar, C.B.E., M.A., Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind, and Mr. Charles H. W. G. Anderson, B.Sc., Principal of the Royal Blind School, Edinburgh, are among the members of the working party, which will be under the chairmanship of Mr. W. Taylor, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

Mr. Isaacs said that his department and other interested organisations had consistently advocated the employment of as many blind persons as possible in industry. The time had come for a general review of what had been achieved.

*Purchase Tax on Baskets

Since these Chairman's Notes were written, it has been announced in the House of Commons that baskets made wholly of cane or wicker, apart from external fittings, having a bottom made of wood or other vegetable material, are to be charged purchase tax at the reduced rate of thirty-three and a third per cent. instead of sixty-six and two thirds, so the all-night vigil produced partial victory.

A Visitor from New Zealand

We are very glad to welcome to this country W. T. Woods, of Christchurch, New Zealand, and to extend to him our warmest congratulations upon the award to him of the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours for his services to ex-Service men.

He is here on an extended visit of some months and we look forward to meeting him at Ovingdean later in the year.

News in Brief

J. Nolan, of Acton, and Mrs. Nolan recently received a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Acton, when they were presented with a parcel of food from Australia. The Mayor spent some time conversing with John.

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S. C. Tarry, of Wandsworth, has been elected President of the South Battersea and Wandsworth Branch, British Legion, locally known as "The Services Rendered Club."

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F. L'Estrange Fawcett, a St. Dunstan's officer of the 1914-1918 war, who many times has served on Stowmarket Council, has contested yet another U.D.C. election and has been returned for a further period of three years. At the first meeting of the new Council, he was elected Vice-Chairman.

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Another officer of the 1914-1918 war, Cyril Bulman, with his wife and their partners, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, have won, by 7,500 points, the Gill Cup for bridge played under the auspices of the Kent Bridge Association. It will be presented to them at the Tunbridge Wells Congress to be held in September.

Derby Sweepstake, 1948

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake was made at No. 12 Park Crescent, on Tuesday, June 1st, by St. Dunstaners J. Botha and F. Collingwood in the presence of Matron Walker, the Editor of the REVIEW, and some twenty St. Dunstaners and members of the staff at No. 12.

The number of tickets sold this year was 2,392—157 less than last year. After deducting £9 from the total proceeds to cover printing and postage expenses, a balance of £290 was left to be divided in accordance with the printed rules. The result was:—

1. MY LOVE W. Hamer, Ovingdean £145
2. ROYAL DRAKE H. Nelson, Durham £58
3. NOOR C. O. Le Bas, Harpenden £29

No fewer than twenty-nine horses "also ran" and those holding tickets for these received two pounds each. They were:—

BLACK TARQUIN	P. SUTTON, Manchester	1420
BLACK PAMPAS	G. LUND, West Hartlepool	601
BLUE FALLS	F. W. CHAPPLE, Bush Hill Park	1324
BLUE MICKIE	G. LAWTY, Bridlington	2352
CITY OF RUSSIA	M. BURRAN, W.1	1863
DJEDDAH	H. BENNETT, Bristol	843
HENLEY IN ARDEN	T. NORTH, Cannock	161
HOPE STREET	J. ELLIS, S.W.16	219
JACOBITE	W. LAST, Crynant	1229
JULIAN	H. C. BAYER, E.17	3
MALLOWRY	F. WAREHAM, Wimborne	982
MILLWALL	D. LITTLEJOHN, Seaford	4
MY BABU	R. HALES, Ovingdean	2267
NATIVE HEATH	D. O. EVANS, Llansamlet	714
OTTOMAN	T. KENT, Prittwell	838
PRIDE OF INDIA	C. COOPER, Worthing	2378
PRINCE HARDI	W. VENESS, Peacchaven	1881
RAVENSWOOD	F. J. BROWN, Birmingham	1287
RUBAIYAT	J. McALONAN, Brighton	350
SPECIALITY	S. BULL, Hemel Hempstead	622
STRAIGHT PLAY	F. W. WALKER, Gosport	1212
TARKA	A. S. DOLBY, Brighton	23
THE COBBLER	J. E. GUNN, Gravesend	1616
THE SENATOR II	A. W. BALLARD, Nottingham	383
TORMIE	J. DIXON, Watford	87
TORY II	BERYL SLEIGH, S.W.7	400
USHER	J. H. NEW, Wolverhampton	1652
VALIGNUS	G. J. WEBSTER, Shipley	71
VALOGNES	A. F. COOKE, Hereford	833

Those drawing horses which did not start were:—

J. R. Ridley, N.2	OVERHEAD	1690
C. W. Matthews, Maidenhead	ROARING FORTIES	961
C. Cooper, Worthing	SOLAR SLIPPER	2377
S. Brazier, Herne Bay, drew	THE FIELD	1326

Grandfathers

C. Blackett, of Plymouth; W. Canning, of Wallasey—three times within one week!

The London Club

On Tuesday evening, June 8th, St. Dunstaners from the London area met at Headquarters, 191 Marylebone Road, to discuss the principles of the new Club. Sir Ian Fraser, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, was in the Chair for the first half of the meeting, Mr. Askew later presiding.

Opening the meeting, Sir Ian said:—

"We are here to-night to found the new St. Dunstan's Club—new because many aspects will be new and will cover wider fields. It follows the Bridge Club and the unofficial gatherings in the old Lounge at St. John's Lodge, and although these were not clubs in the same sense, they had the same purpose and the same effect.

The most comfortable rooms on the ground floor of this building have been set aside for the use of the Club.

The R.A.F. at the end of the war gave us a very fine donation from all ranks throughout the world. We talked to them about what we would like to do with the money and the Club was one of the objects suggested. As the Club is in London, Londoners get something of an advantage. The possibility of establishing clubs in the provinces is unlikely since the numbers would not warrant the establishment of such clubs on the same scale, but help will be given in the form of support for social activities and so on.

Although the Club is in London, we want to attract to it as many men as possible outside London who might come for an evening occasionally, and all men coming from a distance who are passing through London. It is hoped that a wide circle of St. Dunstaners throughout the country will visit it from time to time.

No. 8 Park Crescent will continue to remain open for some time as a "passing-through" hostel, so that men passing through London may enjoy a comfortable bed and surroundings. No. 8 will not close down until alternative accommodation has been found next door to these Club buildings; we have taken two small houses and when vacant possession is obtained, they will become the "passing-through hostel" or the residential aspect of the Club. There will be no rooms for residence in the sense that men reside there permanently. The object is to have beds available for the largest possible number.

As far as day-to-day arrangements are concerned, we want the Club to be run by yourselves. We hope that seven men will form a committee to run the Club. It is not proposed to fill all seven places tonight. I suggest you elect five members from the body of the hall to-night and empower the Committee to co-opt two others during the next month or two. The Committee will have in attendance a senior member of the staff, who in the first instance will be Mr. Askew. If Mr. Askew is away or unable to attend, Mr. Mackay will act as his alternate.

This club is freely available to all St. Dunstaners of both wars—officers, men and women alike, on equal terms. (Applause).

It will follow a modest but active programme. Modest because I don't want you to think we are contemplating anything on a grand style. Our plan is a continuance of the old Lounge, to make provision for the Bridge Club, and to develop, as I said, on improved lines. We want as many as possible to take part in its activities and we want it to be a social, friendly place where old friends can meet, rather than a body constantly putting on shows."

Sir Ian then called on Mr. Askew, who had spent time and thought in arranging the amenities of the Club, to make known the principles on which the Club was being started.

Mr Askew then presented the following points :—

1. **Opening Times:** The Club would be open from 5 to 10 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The Club would be closed during August so that the people concerned might take their holidays.

2. **Staff:** The Club would be in the charge of Sister Ibbetson, a V.A.D. at No. 8 Park Crescent. Mr. Willis would be Club Manager, assisted by Mr. Dawkins, with other helpers drawn from voluntary sources.

3. **Canteen:** Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and sandwiches would be available at moderate prices.

4. **Committee:** It was suggested that a Committee of seven should be appointed and that members should be in office until the first week in January. The Club, it was hoped, would by then be on an even keel and St. Dunstaners would have the opportunity of electing a new Committee or re-electing the old one.

It would be an advantage if three persons out of the seven retired the first year and four people after the second year. This would ensure continuity of management.

5. **Sub-Committees:** Small sub-committees should be elected for specific interests, one of whom should be a member of the main Committee.

6. **St. Dunstan's Review:** A column of the REVIEW should be devoted each month to the publication of Club notices and Club events.

7. **Finance:** A sum of £100 would be placed at the disposal of the main Committee in the first place since there was no subscription or entrance fee.

The meeting received Mr. Askew's points with applause and when this had died down, Sir Ian rose and said:—

"The Finance Bill is being debated in the House of Commons to-night and one of the items to be debated is purchase tax on baskets. I hope to get back to say a few words about this since it affects our basket-makers. Before I go, therefore, I propose a general discussion on the principles outlined by Mr. Askew." Discussion was then opened.

W. Lacey asked whether there had been an increase in sportsmen sufficient to warrant carrying on; Sir Ian thought that the figure might be the same as ten years ago; this included a powerful element of young fellows and a powerful element of grandfathers.

Mr. Askew said that about two hundred St. Dunstaners lived within a radius of ten miles of Headquarters and of these about sixty were second world war men.

M. Burns suggested that instead of a number of sub-committees for each branch of recreation, there should be one for indoor and one for outdoor sports. Sir Ian thought that there should be a Bridge Club sub-committee. The present Club was a development of the Bridge Club which had shown what could be done and he would like to put on record the debt owed to that Club.

F. Rhodes asked that the Bridge Club Committee now in existence until February should be allowed to continue to run the Bridge Club, with any suggestions which the main Committee might put forward. He also suggested fairly frequent dances which would attract more men to Headquarters than any other functions.

Replying, Sir Ian said he would ask the Bridge Club to allow itself to disband voluntarily and it was up to them to see that their men were elected. It was for the good of all to start afresh.

There was no floor in the new premises where a dance could be arranged. If a dance were wanted, it must be held apart from the Club premises.

Sir Ian stressed the dangers of the Marylebone Road crossing. The matter

had been taken up at a high level, but it was the authorities' opinion after intensive investigation that it would not be advisable either to have a new bus stop or new notices (not even "Beware of the Blind," added Sir Ian, amid laughter). The only way to ensure safety was to ask St. Dunstaners to take every proper precaution and for motorists to take notice of the usual signs.

W. Lacey asked how the £100 would be spent. The reply was that as St. Dunstan's would be responsible for heating, etc., and for the loss which would be incurred on refreshments, the £100 would be devoted to any cause which was in the interest of the Club.

C. Williamson asked if there would be a bar. Sir Ian said "No," but there was a pub next door and he had no doubt that the "Yorkshire Stingo" would soon be as well known as the "Chester" or "Volunteer."

Some discussion took place on the question of obtaining a licence in order that a bottle of beer could be consumed on the premises, but on a show of hands it was the wish of the meeting to go on as we have done in the past.

J. M. Steel suggested a bowling green be available and Sir Ian replied that this was a matter for the Committee, but a good suggestion if bowls could be enjoyed by blind men. Other matters discussed included facilities for the Magic Circle and a request for musical facilities, both of which, Sir Ian said, were matters for the Committee rather than the general meeting.

Sir Ian then rose to leave, asking Mr. Askew to take the meeting.

It was proposed by Rees Warren and seconded by F. Rhodes that the principles outlined should be adopted. This was carried.

The meeting then adjourned for most appreciated refreshments and something like a London Reunion took place. Mrs. Irvine and Mrs. Spurway were among the welcome visitors. An hour later, the meeting again assembled and the election of officers began.

Before the voting began, the point was raised as to whether there should be any differentiation between the men of two wars. Put to the vote, there was almost unanimous approval that there should be no distinction. Voting then proceeded and the following were elected to serve on the main Committee;—

P. Ashton, G. Eustace, T. Gaygan, P. Owens, F. Rhodes.

F. Rhodes paid a tribute to Mr. Askew for his planning and help in providing the greatest comfort for the Club members. He conveyed also the company's thanks to Miss Ibbetson and Mr. Willis and to the helpers who had made the evening so pleasant.

Mr. Askew said he would be in attendance at the meetings of the Committee. He would do everything in his power to make the Club a success but it was up to members themselves. It would be the greatest pity if the maximum benefit was not obtained from the new Club premises.

The meeting then broke up.

British Legion Annual Conference

Looking through the Report of the proceedings of the British Legion Conference, the following points of interest to St. Dunstaners emerge:—

Membership of the Legion is now well over the million.

Grants made during the year for unemployment and the relief of distress totalled £826,209, nearly double last year's total.

Grants in relief of distress, to other bodies, and to Legion schemes, together with the cost of Pensions and Benevolent departments, amounted to £1,192,412.

Lt.-Col. Gordon Larking, Chairman, told the meeting, "We are 100 per cent. with you" to a proposal that constant attendance allowance should not be confined to the totally disabled.

The Conference deprecated the fact that war medals will not bear the names of the recipients, as after the first world war.

A final series of resolutions dealt with monetary awards with medals, income tax charged on widows' pensions, war credits, taxes on tobacco and beer, etc., which the Chairman accepted as being in accordance with Legion policy.

A resolution supporting the proposed International Committee for European Unity and calling for the representation of the Legion on the Committee, Board or Council of the proposed Committee was carried by a large majority. "Sailors, soldiers and airmen," said the Cardiff delegate, Mr. Prince, "were ambassadors abroad in war; so they should help to promote this noble cause of European mutual help." (Cheers).

Reunions

Sheffield, Liverpool and Manchester Reunions have taken place during May. On May 19th, the Lord Mayor, Alderman W. E. Yorke, J.P., and the Mayoress, welcomed the guests at Sheffield, and Mr. W. H. Green, Hon. Secretary, Sheffield Branch of the British Legion, was a guest here. The Liverpool meeting was spread over two days—May 21st and 22nd. The Lord Mayor, Alderman W. T. Lancashire, J.P., presided, with the Lady Mayoress, and the National Executive Council of the British Legion was represented by Mr. T. F. Lister. The guests at Manchester on the 25th were the Lord Mayor, Alderman Mary Kingsmill Jones, and her Lady Mayoress, and Mr. S. Cohen, Chairman, Southport British Legion. Mr. Mackay attended all meetings.

Glasgow and Gloucester Meetings

The Scottish Reunion at Glasgow on June 12th was a gathering of the clans. Forty Scots were there from John o' Groats to Solway Firth and Mr. Mackay and Sir Ian represented what the Chairman called the "outer" Scots from the South. Sir Ian, who had also attended at Dunoon the Annual Conference of the British Legion (Scottish), said that this Conference, as was the case at the British Legion's own Conference at the Albert Hall, had urged the need for a revision of pension rates to meet the fall in the value of money. He assured his audience that the Legions, in co-operation with ex-Service men's organisations generally, would represent the case to Ministers and M.P.s of all parties. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," said Sir Ian, "so do not expect anything, but we will do our best."

A Reunion was also held at Gloucester on Monday, June 14th, which Sir Ian and Lady Fraser also attended. This was a large party of West Country and South Wales St. Dunstaners and after singing "God Save the King," they sang the Welsh Hymn led by Gwennie Obern.

A. B. Hill proposed that a presentation be given to Miss Oliphant in appreciation of her devoted services for thirteen years to St. Dunstaners and their families in the West Country. A number of St. Dunstaners had formed a little committee to sponsor the presentation, and

it was suggested that half-a-crown a head was an appropriate amount. Many subscriptions were received at this Reunion and at the Taunton Reunion which followed on June 17th, and Sir Ian promised that Mr. Askew would act as Honorary Treasurer and would receive subscriptions from men who were not at the Reunions and wished to participate.

In the light of the money collected, Sir Ian will consult the committee as to what is the best form for the presentation to take and how and when it shall be made. The members of the committee were W. Bryer, A. Bundy, K. R. Cook, W. L. Keen, A. B. Hill, G. Hill, H. E. Hill, F. Madgwick and H. A. Perrett.

At Glasgow, T. M. Fisher, and at Gloucester, A. E. Hill of Bristol and A. J. Caple of Cardiff, proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Ian and Lady Fraser and St. Dunstan's.

Birmingham St. Dunstan's Club

It is some months since the Club sent a report of its doings to the REVIEW. This does not mean that it has not been having successful monthly meetings at Red Cross H.Q., Edgbaston.

The last meeting, well attended, was held on May 9th, a lovely afternoon for sitting in the garden and playing quoits and dominoes. As usual, a very nice tea was arranged by the Red Cross. Mr. Cooling announced that members had subscribed £1 2s. 6d., which pays for food and any balance to the Club Fund. Miss Fairhead, Hon. Sec., announced the Summer Outing for early July and said the Limbless Association, Broad Street, had invited members and escorts to a party in June. Stratford was decided upon for the outing. Red Cross cars will call for members and their wives and take them home at night. The party takes a picnic tea.

Mrs. Spurway undertook to get in touch with old friends in Stratford, arrange a river trip, sculling, sports, and a visit to the Legion H.Q. The Legion has written to say that St. Dunstaners will be Hon. Members of this Club and that we can dance in the Club Room. Miss Fairhead, 45 Anderton Park Road, Mossley, Birmingham 13, is Hon. Sec.

Should any St. Dunstaner who has not yet joined the Birmingham Club care to write, he will be included in the party.

A Blinded Sikh's Gratitude

Havildar (Sergeant) Jagat Singh returned home when his training at Dehra Dun was over. Blinded, left arm amputated and with only a thumb and finger remaining on his right hand, there was little that he could do beyond setting up in a little business, and St. Dunstan's has the building of a house for him under way—delayed somewhat by the fact that his part of the country has been in a state of anarchy for the past nine months. A gift of winter clothing, however, reached him, and this is how he expresses his feelings in a letter to Sir Clutha Mackenzie:—

“Revered Sir,

I have received the gift parcel of St. Dunstan's. I have no words to thank him. It is clear to me that through its kind I will spend a life worth living. It is boon to we blinded soldiers.

People in the country have odd ideas against the English. I always set a model of yours before them. I am not praising you. I am putting my heart before you. I and my whole family always prays for your long life and prosperity. For I know I cannot do more than this. The good wish and prayer of a poor soldier reaches the highest heavens.

I am going on well these days. I cannot complain against my fate. Through want of room I am not feeling well these days. Please make an earlier arrangement about the building of the house.

I am willing to see you. Chance coming, I shall try to have your darshans.

Praying for your long and prosperous life,
Sd., Hav. Jagat Singh, Halloowal.”

Placements

R. C. A. Jones, as an upholsterer with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Pontypridd; A. Relf, Slough, in a business; Edward G. Anderson, in the shop at East Ham previously operated by Michael Lawton; B. W. Worting, as an assembler with Messrs. Rawlplugs, Ltd., Mill Hill; Eileen Gould, as a telephonist with the Ministry of Labour, East Ham—Eileen was previously an established Clerical Assistant in the Civil Service; A. Peckett, as a telephone operator with the Ministry of Labour, Corporation Street, Manchester.

Young St. Dunstaners

Christine McLoughlin was second in the Operatic Cup, and won two second places in other sections at the recent Dublin Musical Festival.

David Palmer, Maryhill, Glasgow, has been awarded a travelling scholarship in connection with his work and studies.

Marriages

Edward Williams, Shipley, on March 27th, to Miss Dorothy Hodgson.

Brian Hildick, Shrewsbury, on February 7th, to Miss Joan Hornsby.

Donald Greaves, Oldham, on April 24th (Matron Vaughan Davies was one of the guests); and Eric Appleyard, Leeds, on May 1st.

Keith Archer, Melbourne, Australia, on March 12th, to Miss Jean Prime.

Kenneth Allan McConnell, Melbourne, on April 3rd, to Miss Lydia May Sinclair.

Hilda Pollitt, Farnworth, on March 28th, to Leslie Brooks.

Norman Johns, Totnes, on April 3rd, to Miss Audrey Hutt.

Frances Cork, Rhodes Minnis, on November 29th, 1947.

Mary Allen, Morecambe, in April.

On June 6th, Marjorie Abbott, Willesden, to Peter Sirett.

On May 22nd, Agnes Lund, W.R.N.S., West Hartlepool, to Patrick Thomas Nash.

Whitsun at Blackpool

What glorious weather for Whit Week! Here we took full advantage of the opportunity to visit the Lake District.

We boarded a special coach, then on through the lovely countryside to Carnforth, where a short break enabled us to have tea and ices. Then along the main road, over the fells, up hill and down dale, until we thought we were on the “Big Dipper.” Then a wonderful trip of 5½ miles “aboard the lugger” to Bowness where the coach picked us up again. Too soon came the signal for the return journey made alongside the Lake and through the beautiful Valley. A short stop on the return journey at Carnforth for a “toast”—greatly welcomed! The subsequent community singing was somewhat weak and not up to the usual standard, but we reached the Home tired and happy.

(A little appreciation on behalf of the “boys” by Romeo and Juliet).

Ovingdean Notes

During this month we have been very pleased to welcome Dame Katherine Watt with Madame Rais, the wife of the Iranian Ambassador in London. Mme. Rais had a long talk with Captain Bekhradnia, our Iranian trainee. The Bishop of Mauritius visited us on May 21st, and gave a very interesting talk on the way of life in that country.

The Summer Term entertainment began with Mr. Cheeseman's (of London) Dance, this time in the Arlington Hotel. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the fun, including the Manager's two small children who appeared in their dressing gowns, and refused to go back to bed until refreshed with lemonade and buns.

On Whit Sunday evening a party of trainees went to West House, where a performance of "Ousel's Odd Bods" delighted a large audience; and on Whit Monday, Ovingdean trainees again joined West House on a Treasure Hunt to Alfriston. "Jenks" Jenkins, Harold Dickenson and Miss Timmis were the lucky winners.

An excellent performance of the play, "George and Margaret," was given by the Withdean Club on Wednesday, May 26th. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it, and we hope to see them again in the near future.

A most delightful evening was spent by a number of our debaters at Roedean School by invitation of their debating Society. The subject—"That Beauty is Preferable to Brains in Women"—was most ably introduced by "Killie" who stressed the point of real beauty in character. He was seconded by a Roedean sixth-former grimly picturing a frump discoursing on the Stone Age! A Roedeanite opposed (scorning the dumb belle) and seconded by Jack Cook, followed by an open debate of rapier thrusts and real wit. All look forward to inviting our charming young hostesses to Ovingdean next term.

Another welcome invitation was from the Sergeant-at-Arms, House of Commons, for four trainees and an escort to attend the debate on Friday, May 18th. Sir Hartley Shawcross, Mr. George Buchanan and Mr. Aneurin Bevan were among the speakers. Every kindness was shown the party, including seats in the Peers' Gallery, and a short description of the historical paintings, showing landmarks in the growth of our

constitution; and permission to visit the new Foundation Stone.

A shooting match took place between St. Dunstan's and the Crawley Scouts on Tuesday, May 12th, which resulted in a win for St. Dunstan's by 187 points to the Crawley Scouts' 174. The highest score of the evening was made by Dickie Richardson, who scored 48 out of a possible 50. Another match was arranged in the house between the Physiotherapy Department and the Rest. The Rest won by 271 points out of a possible 300 to 248.

Sports

Our annual Sports Meeting will be held on July 17th, 1948, commencing at 2.30 p.m. (on our own ground). Sports events will be the same as for the last year with additional events for the children at North Gate House, and all St. Dunstaners' children present.

It is also proposed to hold another Sports Day on September 18th, 1948, for all St. Dunstaners away from the Training Centre and living within easy reach of Ovingdean. Events will be as follows:—

- 70 yards totally blind
- 70 yards semi-sighted
- Throwing the cricket ball
- Throwing the medicine ball
- Putting the weight
- Standing long jump
- Throwing the discus
- Walking race

Will anyone who wishes to enter for any of these events please notify Matron Pain or Mr. Jarrold not later than Monday, July 5th? If sufficient entrants are not forthcoming, those who have entered will be informed before September 11th that this Sports day will be cancelled.

Senior Braille Reading Test

C. Durkin, T. Kent.

Correction

Our Norwegian visitor of last month, M. Heian, was reported as being a basket instructor who is blind. This was wrongly worded. M. Heian is sighted and instructs the blind.

For Sale

PIANO, Swiss make, good tone, ebonised case, iron frame, seven octaves, £60.—R. Collyer, 5 Dollis Brook Walk, May's Lane, Barnet, Herts.

West House Notes

The "Week-enders" started to arrive early on May 14th to swell the already considerable number of visitors taking an early summer holiday.

Before the first official function, the chaps were running into old friends and talk and laughter was at once loosening up and preparing the way for the full flavour of festivities arranged according to programme.

The hot sun and fair skies and good company made the boating expedition at Barcombe Mills in the afternoon most enjoyable, and a number took advantage of the river to "paddle their own canoes" and brace themselves for more active things to follow.

Evening brought all to the "Get Together" dance with both lounge and conservatory floors comfortably filled with couples tripping the light fantastic. The evening continued with many novelty dances, not forgetting our usual Statue and Spot Waltzes, with prizes. After the ball was over, little groups of men could be found with not a thought of Slumberland but talking of "old Charlie," Tom, Dick and Harry, and bringing news of absent friends.

Saturday brought forth an afternoon of sea and sun-bathing with a picnic tea on the beach; this was thoroughly enjoyed by all and brought back brick-red complexions and peeling noses to testify weather conditions. A more restful occupation during the evening—a whist and domino drive to which local St. Dunstaners were invited and proved successful with a large and keen set of tables.

On Sunday, a general desire for rest, especially after the efforts of the Kitchen Staff; some of the snores on the lawn were certainly a song of praise.

A well-attended Chapel Service was held in the early evening with a delightful solo by Miss Brownings. The chapel, as always, was decorated with many lovely flowers.

After supper came our very own theatre with "Ousel's Odd Bods" excelling all previous grand shows with three one-act plays, one "A Cure for Nerves," by the Dispensary Staff, secondly, "Novelette," by the Lounge "Lizards," and thirdly, "Tanks," by Matron and the rest of the "Odd Bods," among whom was Denis Lelliott. All three plays were introduced by Commandant with his usual witty and

jocular style. Mrs. Brodie gave us her very able assistance in many ways with the production.

Bank Holiday came, and the sun was still pouring down; this was the day of rounding up the grand week-end. At 2 p.m. there was a general shepherding of treasure hunters into the coaches and soon all were wheeling away through the Sussex Lanes to Alfriston, and to meet Ovingdean, who were also joining in the fun. Lists of treasures were handed out and soon the whole village was joining in the spirit with St. Dunstaners and escorts knocking at doors and asking for strange items. Six-inch nails (not rusty), moth balls, the "Times," an eyelash, a blonde hair (not a blonde in the party), a bulrush (out of season), and an ode to Matron. At 4.30 the party journeyed to a neighbouring hill, where the picnic tea was disposed of (oh, those thistles!). It was found desirable to let the engines cool at a wayside hostelry. Having oiled the throats, songs were sung all the way back, the rendering of "Ten Green Bottles" bringing the "stayers-in" to the door when the party arrived at West House.

A short rest and clean-up, then the Gala Dance, music lending wings to the feet once more and the running buffet serving tasty refreshments. At 11 o'clock the climax came with our old friend Mrs. Spurway presenting prizes for the treasure hunt and dance; at this stage one of the odes to Matron was read. Ah, yes! A very odd ode!

By breakfast time on Tuesday morning many had departed, leaving still a spirit of gaiety.

Our weekly dance on May 21st was honoured with a visit from Leo Silvera, the famous tenor, and his star pupil, 18-year-old Janet Scott, as guest artistes.

The next day we visited the Toc H Club, Preston Park, for dominoes, and prizes were brought back by Harry Day and Daddy Howe.

On the 27th we welcomed members of the Withean Club, who gave us an excellent performance of "George and Margaret."

The last star performance was given by Janet Hamilton-Smith and John Hargreaves, stars from the "Song of Norway," during our Friday dance on the 28th.

We may now look forward to another instalment of whoopee at West House.

Theatre Gossip

Attending the Westousdrome, Brighton, I was at once struck by the popularity and fame the Repertory Company, "Ousel's Odd Bods," had gained for themselves. The date I had chosen to visit the show marked the first night attempt of giving three shows for the price of one. And long ere the curtain rose the "House Full" notices were exhibited.

Promptly at eight o'clock the popular Compere welcomed the audience and introduced the first one-act play, "A Cure for Nerves." It would be unfair to select any particular artiste by name, but I think the bedside manner of the doctor would simply stagger the B.M.A. The curtain descended to a furore of applause, which I admit was really merited.

When the house lights came on, silent-footed usherettes passed quietly amongst the audience with ice creams, cigarettes, and even beer, this further service avoiding the necessity of a mad rush in a foot crushing gallop to the bar.

Then the curtain rose on "Novelette," a below-stairs drama lightened by some rare humour and snappy repartee. It is hard to single out for special praise any of the artistes, drawn from the lounge section of the company, but I must compliment the casting, Miss Chaddock and Miss Wilkinson in particular being suited well for the parts allotted them. I would also pay tribute to the cast by saying how I learned a full rehearsal had not taken place until the same afternoon.

The last one-acter was "Tanks," performed by Madame Ousley's Stooges, the administrative section, an offering of entanglement, and love pursuit, even into the lady's boudoir, where the scene was set. The farce went at a good pace through its entirety, with the lovesick captain, immersed in a steam bath of ancient vintage, his desired lady becoming excited and calm by turn, and the passionate French maid completing the main picture. This part was taken by Madame M. Ousley herself, and as the curtain came down the audience rose once again, satisfied that Westousdrome had definitely "Done its Stuff."

With the standard of plays so high, and the performers doing so well, further fame is assured. I must put forward a plea, however, that in fairness to the artistes who are playing to these packed houses, the

theatre really needs a new microphone system, with, I suggest, two hanging "mikes" to augment the existing one.

With all critics and gossip writers it is imperative to remain hidden, so I sign myself

FAUTEILS.

Mr. S. Manchee

The many St. Dunstaners who knew him will hear with the deepest regret that Mr. Syd Manchee died at Brighton on May 24th at the age of 73. One of the original "Good Companions," Mr. Manchee continued his good work all through the war, acting as escort to and from Melpash and Blackpool, helping in a hundred other ways, and still finding time to raise more than a thousand pounds for St. Dunstan's through the Brighton Appeals Office. Since the war he has remained in touch with many of our men and his interest in St. Dunstan's has been unfailing, although for some weeks his health had been breaking. He will be greatly missed.

Matron Pain, Miss Morris and Miss Davison, and St. Dunstaners T. Rouse and J. Howe, were among those present at the funeral.

Golden Wedding

Special congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Morris, of Pontypridd, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on May 29th.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following who are celebrating their anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. D. Owen, Rhos-on-Sea, Mar. 30th; Mr. and Mrs. E. Mills, Bloxwich, April 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Baker, Enfield, May 26th; Mr. and Mrs. T. Warren, Slough, June 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Frampton, Highams Park, June 16th.

Editorial Address

Will St. Dunstaners note that the Editor's address remains 9-11 Park Crescent, since this is incorporated in the Publicity Department, and that all correspondence relating to "St. Dunstan's Review" and "Nuggets" should be sent there.

Marriages

ROWE-KEILEY.—On June 19th, E. Rowe, of South Woodford, to Miss Katherine Keiley, of Folkestone.

SALT-HOLMES.—On April 21st, J. Salt, of Morecambe, to Miss Betty Holmes, recently of Blackpool.

TIBBETT.—On June 12th, C. Tibbett, of Wimbledon.

“ In Memory ”

Private John Palmer, *15th Highland Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of John Palmer, of Maryhill, Glasgow, who enlisted on October 9th, 1914, and lost his sight as a result of gunshot wounds while serving in France. He came to St. Dunstan's early in 1917, where he trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker.

While on holiday at West House in November, 1946, he became suddenly ill. He returned home but his illness continued, and he was only able to do wool-rug work at which he was very successful. He passed away peacefully on May 1st.

St. Dunstaners Irvine, Forrester, McDonald and Yuile followed with Miss Wood at the funeral. Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and two sons.

Private James Alexander Dunlop, *1st Cameron Highlanders*

With deep regret we record the death of J. A. Dunlop, of Midlothian, which took place very unexpectedly at his home on May 17th.

He served from September, 1915, until September, 1918; he had been wounded in France in 1918 and he came to us in that year. He trained as a poultry farmer and basket-maker, and he carried on with the latter until the time of his death.

Miss Wood attended the funeral, where nearly fifty of his friends had gathered. He leaves a wife and son to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Henry Jones, *Training Reserves*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. Jones, of Flint, who came to St. Dunstan's in 1921 although he had served in the Forces from May, 1917, until February, 1918. He was trained as a basket maker and for many years did this, but for some time now he had been doing light work only. His death took place suddenly on April 25th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private J. A. Cobbell, *Grenadier Guards*

With deep regret we record the death of J. A. Cobbell, of Great Yarmouth.

He was wounded at Lavante in 1916, coming to St. Dunstan's the same year, and he trained as a mat-maker.

He passed away on May 22nd.

He leaves a widow and two daughters to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Gunner Ronald Charles Hales, *94th Field Regt., R.A.*

With deep regret we record the death of Ronald Hales, who joined St. Dunstan's for training on February 27th, 1946. He was injured in action in Holland. He became seriously ill in April, 1947, and although he made some slight recovery, he was never strong enough to undertake serious training.

He was buried at Nunhead Cemetery, London, on June 3rd, St. Dunstan's trainees and staff at Ovingdean being represented by Messrs. W. Harby, Short, and Curtis, the latter being his personal orderly.

Private James Hartley, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Hartley, who for a great number of years has been a permanent resident at one of our Homes in consequence of his ill health. He served in the first world war from May, 1917, until December, 1918, in which year he joined St. Dunstan's.

He passed away at West House on May 31st and was laid to rest with his St. Dunstan's comrades in the Brighton Cemetery.

Births

CARR.—On May 10th, to the wife of W. Carr, of Rochdale, a son.

GLOVER.—On May 19th, to the wife of W. Glover, of Birmingham, a son—Brian Michael.

NOLAN.—On May 8th (prematurely), to the wife of J. Nolan, of Acton, a son—John. They are both now doing well.

PHILLIPS.—On June 7th, to the wife of W. G. Phillips, of Wolverhampton, a daughter—Ann Mary.

READ.—On June 10th, to the wife of Jack Read, of Hastings, a daughter—Sheila Joyce.

STOKES.—On May 25th, to Sadie Stokes, of Salford, a daughter.

Deaths

We extend our deep sympathy to the following:—

BARRETT.—To Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Barrett, of Lower Edmonton, whose daughter, Violet, died on June 5th.

MUGGERIDGE.—To W. A. Muggeridge, of Hillingdon, whose mother passed away on May 24th.

MAKER.—To C. Maker, of Horrabridge, who lost his wife on June 4th after a serious and long illness.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 352—VOLUME XXXII [NEW SERIES]

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ST. DUNSTAN'S and the blind world generally mourn the loss of three good friends. Senior in age and service, Captain Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., passed away on June 21st at the age of eighty-four. Since he lost his sight in action in the Boer War in 1900, his life had been devoted to the service of blind people. Two acts of extreme bravery won him the award of the Victoria Cross, but the second act—the defence of a post with twelve men against 150 Boers—cost him his sight. He joined the Council of the National Institute for the Blind in 1901 and became its chairman in 1921, a position which he held until 1944, when ill-health forced him to resign. During the 1914-18 war, he visited wounded men in hospital in France. I remember as I lay in hospital being told that a blind V.C. was coming to visit me, perhaps to write letters for me. As it happened, I did not meet him then, as I was moved on, but the thought remained with me that if this blind man could write letters, there might be other useful things which I, too, could do. Many young blinded soldiers owed their first incentive to Captain Towse. I met him later at Portland Place and for many years we served together on various committees. He became a Vice-President of St. Dunstan's in 1946 and was a national vice-president of the British Legion. We salute the passing of a gallant soldier and comrade.

Mr. Ernest Kessell, C.B.E., died in Guy's Hospital on June 30th. He was eighty years of age. Mr. Kessell was the life-long friend and assistant of Sir Arthur Pearson. They worked together as young men on the "Daily Express" which Sir Arthur founded, and "E. K." was one of the small band of people who were Sir Arthur's helpers and advisors in the founding of St. Dunstan's. No-one was more closely identified with Sir Arthur's business and philanthropic activities than Mr. Kessell. He was Treasurer of St. Dunstan's for eighteen years and throughout his life directed Pearson's Fresh Air Fund, retiring only a short time ago. When he celebrated his eightieth birthday in February, Queen Mary was among those who sent him good wishes. "E. K." received the C.B.E. from H.M. King George V. in 1929 for his services to blind people and to little children, but his friends will remember him also for his unfailing kindness and thought for the happiness of others which made him so beloved in whatever sphere his work took him. Sir Neville Pearson, our President, Lady Fraser, Mr. Askew, Miss Coultate and Miss Marshall attended the funeral.

News has reached us from South Africa of the death on June 27th of Advocate R. W. Bowen, M.P., who came to St. Dunstan's in 1918. "Mike" Bowen was wounded at Ypres and after coming to St. Dunstan's, he studied law at Cambridge and was called to the Bar in 1920. He returned to South Africa two years later to begin a most distinguished career. He was a successful barrister at Cape Town, where he became known as a friend of the coloured people, and he conducted some important cases on behalf of South African natives. In 1929 he was elected to the South African Parliament, representing Green Point, Cape Peninsula, and he has held this seat ever since; he was returned unopposed at the recent

General Election, but at one election was returned with the second biggest majority in the Union. He was President of the National Council for the Blind in South Africa, and in 1943 was Grand President of the Sons of England, an old-established patriotic society with widespread influence in the Union.

"Mike" Bowen was a most outstanding St. Dunstaner whose gallant spirit and work for those less fortunate won him the admiration and respect of all sections of the South African community.

Medals and Decorations

Towards the end of last year I asked all St. Dunstaners who had been decorated for war or civilian services to send in their names to me so that a permanent record might be compiled and displayed on panels at the new Headquarters and at Ovingdean. The response has been a good one, but I do not think the record is yet complete. In the printed REVIEW this month is a supplement showing the decorations of which we have a record, in the form in which they will appear on the panels. This list is only a proof. Please study it carefully and if you know of any omission or mistake in it, send me a corrected entry as soon as possible and in any case not later than August 31st. The next-of-kin of any St. Dunstaner who was decorated and who has died should also confirm that his details are correct.

Men's Supplies

On June 30th, Horace Kerr relinquished control of Men's Supplies, for which he has been responsible for the last three years. At his own request he takes over a tobacco and confectionery shop at Ilford, Essex. His place will be taken by J. E. Cooper, of Wallington, who came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1947, after being a prisoner of war in Hong Kong. Since 1921, Horace Kerr has served St. Dunstan's, first as telephone operator, then in the Talking Book Department. During the war years he did valuable work for the Appeals Department. When the department of Men's Supplies was formed, he took control and he has done excellent work in the difficult job, particularly in these days of shortages, of supplying men with wireless sets, watches, typewriters, braille, etc., as well as being responsible for maintenance. We are very sorry indeed to lose him and we wish him every success in his new venture; we welcome his successor to our staff and wish him the best of luck.

Our Deaf-Blind Friends

Towards the end of September, we are holding a special Reunion at West House for deaf St. Dunstaners.

I am very glad of this opportunity of bringing together our deafened comrades to discuss their difficulties. St. Dunstaners generally will agree that we must do everything we can to lighten the burden of those of our number who suffer a double handicap.

St. Dunstaners themselves can help very much by learning the hand language so that when one of our friends is at one of our Homes, he may have a number of people to talk to. Those of us who enjoy the Talking Book and wireless can realise how much we would miss if we were cut off from them.

IAN FRASER.

Zofia Ksiazek

We have heard with great pleasure that our Polish friend, Zofia Ksiazek, was married on July 11th to Mr. W. Bregula, a violinist of the Radio Symphony Orchestra. She and her husband will live in Warsaw, and in September Zofia begins permanent work in the Warsaw Radio Theatre.

Telling Sir Ian her news, Zofia wrote: "For the wedding reception we shall have one English guest, a lady, who is staying here with her Polish husband. She is from London. I am so glad she will come, for speaking to her I shall think I am in St. Dunstan's. I shall think of you all, wishing you all to be as happy as I shall be that day. God bless you and all St. Dunstan's."

War Pensions

On Friday, July 9th, Sir Ian Fraser opened a campaign for improved war pensions in a speech in the House of Commons.

Many reports in the newspapers, and leading articles, testified that the House was moved by his plea and the Minister in his reply said that this was a matter which would have to be discussed with other Ministers, but he would consider all that had been said very sympathetically.

We are glad to be able to enclose with this REVIEW a reprint of the report of the proceedings in the House of Commons which contains the full text of Sir Ian's speech and the Minister's reply.

Reunions

On June 23rd, reunions were resumed with the Reading meeting where the Mayoress, Mrs. Kersley, welcomed the guests, and Mr. J. E. Woodward, Chairman of Berkshire British Legion, was also present. On the 28th, men living in the Birmingham and Midlands area were greeted by the Deputy Mayor, Alderman Bradbeer, who was accompanied by Mrs. Bradbeer. Mr. W. F. Brazener, J.P., Chairman of Birmingham County Council of the British Legion, was another guest. The Bedford meeting was at Dujohn's Cafe three days later.

Brighton

On July 5th, a Reunion of men in the Brighton area was held at the King Alfred Restaurant, Hove.

Addressing the gathering, Sir Ian Fraser said: The National Insurance and National Health schemes came into force that day. Provisional regulations showed that disabled men and women would not get the full benefits as well as their pensions. They were not satisfied with this and were pressing the Government, in and out of the House of Commons, to adopt a principle that he who paid a full contribution should receive a full benefit. (Applause).

From now on, doctoring, nursing and medicine were free to all. St. Dunstaners and their families should take full advantage of this service locally. There was a very natural tendency at Brighton for local St. Dunstaners and their families to look to one or other of our Homes for medical advice. We were not staffed for such a purpose, for the medical services there were only adequate for those in the Home at the time. Nor was the Headquarters medical service available for ordinary day-to-day doctoring. Nevertheless, St. Dunstan's medical service would continue where we wanted advice as to a man's fitness or ill-health, and for exceptional cases.

Colonel C. H. Madden, Hove resident and member of the National Executive of the British Legion, moved a vote of thanks to Sir Ian Fraser.

P. Vorley, with Miss Bowers' Boots' Café Orchestra, played dance music during the afternoon, adding to everyone's enjoyment.

The Rev. Bryant Crane

The Rev. Bryant F. F. Crane, Chaplain at St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, is to preach at Westminster Abbey on Sunday, September 12th, at 6.30 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

THE EDITOR, DEAR SIR,

Travel Concessions for the Blind

When Sir Ian came into our Bridge tea half-hour three months ago, I brought up the subject of *free* travel for the blind. I and my friends, and I am sure everyone, have been delighted with the way he has corroborated what we already knew—namely, that our Dominions' treatment of the blind in this way was much more generous. I have read the reply of the Transport Commission—but don't let that put you off, Sir Ian, or any of us. Now the ball is rolling, keep it rolling. If these Transport people won't move further, can't we peg away in another direction?

I suggest that we take the REVIEW for May and show our M.P.s, and thus get a hundred or more members to move at once on our behalf. This voucher which we used to get so easily during the war, and now with so much difficulty, is only difficult in London, where the main blind organisations exist, and they are afraid to do anything wrong. Outside London, blind people go to their societies and get vouchers much more easily, therefore the whole thing is weak. Most north country towns, for instance, give blind people a free pass on local transport, and they then pay for an escort, if any, but in London you pay for yourself and the escort is free, which is *not* the same.

Yours sincerely,

Leigh-on-Sea.

H. GOVER.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," July, 1918:

"On July 23rd, Capt. Ian Fraser, who so ably and successfully superintends our After Care arrangements, and who, as I think you all know, was totally blinded at the Battle of the Somme, just two years ago, is marrying Miss Mace, a Commandant of St. Dunstan's. Miss Mace has been of untold assistance to me since my sight failed, and I am extremely happy in the thought that her marriage does not mean that she will be dissociated in the future from the work which she has done so much to help. I am quite sure that all St. Dunstaners, both past and present, will join with me in wishing Capt. Fraser and Miss Mace every possible happiness in their married life."

—Sir ARTHUR PEARSON, writing in "Notes by the Chief."

St. Dunstan's Club Notes

Following the General Meeting of St. Dunstaners in London, fully reported in our last issue, the Committee has had two meetings to further the interest of the Club. It will be remembered that the following were elected to the Committee:

Messrs. P. Ashton, G. Eustace, F. Rhodes, T. Gaygan, and P. Owens; P. Owens was subsequently elected to the Chair. We have been fortunate in having the advice and services of Mr. W. G. Askew acting in an ex-officio capacity on both occasions.

The activities of the Club have been broadly divided into three categories:

1. Bridge.
2. All other indoor entertainments, including whist drives, darts, dominoes, chess, etc.
3. Outdoor entertainments, including rowing, walking, swimming, etc. The possibility of bowls is being investigated.

The following sub-committees have been elected to investigate and pursue the activities of their own particular department:

1. Bridge: Frank Rhodes, Drummer Downs, Charlie Gover.
2. Outdoor Sports: Tommy Gaygan, Vivian Kennard, J. M. Steel.
3. Indoor Entertainments: Percy Ashton, George Piper, Alfred Wiltshire.

These sub-committees are anxious to contact all St. Dunstaners who are interested in their particular department. St. Dunstaners who are interested in a particular form of sport or activity should contact one of the members of that committee for, as it will be appreciated, they are anxious to find out as soon as possible the numbers we shall have to cater for in the future social evenings.

A suggestion box has been fitted just inside the Entrance Hall for suggestions from St. Dunstaners to prosper the work of the Club.

You will remember that the Club is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 5 o'clock until 10 o'clock, and on Saturday from 2 o'clock until 10 o'clock. May I remind all St. Dunstaners that the Club will be closed for the month of August. At present it has been arranged that the following activities will be held in the Club on the days stated:—

- Monday - Institute of Magicians.
Tuesday - Whist Drive,

Thursday - Domino Drive.

Saturday - Bridge.

It will be appreciated that on these particular evenings, other activities of the Club are still going on, so if your particular interest should not be in dominoes, for example, all the other facilities will be available.

On Tuesday, June 29th, twenty-eight people sat down to an enjoyable evening playing whist, and it is hoped to go from strength to strength as the weeks progress, in this direction.

It will be appreciated that the success of a club depends upon its members turning up and backing its activities. One good sign at this present time is that almost every evening, new faces are coming along and it augurs well for the future success of the Club.

This column in the REVIEW has been allocated for the use of the Club, and it is hoped that we shall be able to give you considerable warning of the events that are coming off, so that you will be able to make an early booking for the dates and activities you desire to participate in.

G. P. OWENS, *Chairman, St. Dunstan's Club.*

Parcels from Johannesburg

Two thousand one hundred and sixty parcels of food are being distributed to St. Dunstaners in this country from the Johannesburg Committee of the Food Parcels for Britain Fund. The gift arose from a conversation between Sir Ian Fraser and the Mayor of Johannesburg when Sir Ian was in that City this year. Sir Ian suggested that it would be greatly appreciated if a parcel was sent to each St. Dunstaner from the people of Johannesburg, which was Sir Ian's childhood home. The Committee gladly agreed and the parcels are now being distributed.

Cambridge Successes

Our warmest congratulations to K. H. C. McIntyre, who has secured an Honours Degree (B.A., Second Class), at Cambridge University, (he was previously a B.A. of Africa), and to Michael Norman and T. Horsfield, who have also obtained their Honours Degree, Second Class, at the University. ★ ★ ★

Miss Sophie Tucker, the well-known singer, who is now on a visit to this country, has sent a cheque for £50 towards our funds "with her very best wishes."

A Magical Concert

On Wednesday, June 10th, at the Tarpots Hall, Benfleet, before a crowded audience, two St. Dunstaners—both members of the Institute of Magicians trained and tutored by the Institute at their special Magic Class for St. Dunstaners on Monday evenings at Headquarters—gave an excellent performance at a Variety Concert.

"Smudger" Smith walked on the stage with all the assurance of a veteran performer, showed two empty glasses free of preparation, which were placed upon a borrowed book. The book and glasses were then inverted but to the surprise of the onlookers the glasses did not fall to the ground. The effect was repeated, this time two silk handkerchiefs were placed—one in each glass—and again the glasses and book were inverted. The uncanny effect of the glasses refusing to fall to the ground was repeated and while the book and glasses were still in the upside-down position, "Smudger" deliberately extracted the silks from the glass. The glasses and book were then returned to the upright position and everything was examined and found free from any preparation.

For his second effect, Magician Smudger Smith showed an empty envelope, a yard of silk ribbon and a pair of scissors. Snipping off the end of the envelope, he proceeded to thread the ribbon through the envelope, both ends being in full view of the audience. Taking up the scissors he deliberately cut through the envelope and ribbon, showing unmistakably the two severed halves of the envelope. Applying the magic formula, "Abracadabra," the envelope, now in two halves, was withdrawn from the ribbon, which to the astonishment of the packed hall was completely restored.

Smudger's final offering was with a piece of pleated paper. By clever manipulation he made over fifty clever designs to a running commentary of humorous patter. He retired to prolonged applause after occupying the stage for twenty minutes.

Rees Warren, the other Magician, won round after round of applause with his programme of magic which was flawless from start to finish.

Showing a small silver plated box about 4in. by 2in., to be unmistakably empty, by some magical power he cheerfully produced one at a time, six silk handkerchiefs.

A large wooden block was threaded on

a length of cord. Two members of the audience each held an end—yet the block was released visibly without any covering of the block, without even the smallest "clue" being given away.

So the baffling performance went on and not a single member of the closely watching audience could give an explanation as to how the various effects were brought about.

For his last item, he showed three very large cards, two Jacks and a Queen. They were each placed in a small wooden stand, the centres of the stands being cut out showing the middle of each card. The stands were interchanged with each other and the audience were asked to "find the lady." They failed completely, although the Magician was able to "spot her" every time without fail.

Twenty minutes of thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

Well done, Smudger Smith and Rees Warren—both splendid fellows and each one a real credit to both the Institute of Magicians and St. Dunstan's.

OSCAR OSWALD.

Placements

C. Bargery, of Hornsey, in a shop; D. Grimes, as telephonist with Messrs. Caffyn's, Ltd., Eastbourne; W. E. Bignell, of Worthing, as an assembler with Messrs. Rawlplugs, Ltd., Mill Hill; C. J. Pennells, as gauger and checker with Messrs. Allen West and Co., Brighton; S. Wolkowicz, of Birmingham, as capstan operator with Messrs. Chamberlain and Hookham, Ltd.

News from South Africa

We have heard with regret from our South African St. Dunstaner, E. Denny, of Pretoria, that Mrs. Holmes, who has done such good work for St. Dunstan's since 1915, has lost her sight. At present she is living with her son, a sugar planter, in Zululand.

The good wishes of all St. Dunstaners in South Africa will go out to Mrs. Holmes.

Mr. Herbert-Cæsari's Concert

On June 17th, Mr. E. Herbert-Cæsari and his pupils gave a most enjoyable musical concert at the Armitage Hall, National Institute for the Blind, by kind permission of Mr. Jarvis, Assistant Secretary. The performance was greatly appreciated by the St. Dunstaners and their escorts who were able to be present.

Ovingdean Notes

Now that the British Isles have been made more accessible to overseas visitors, Ovingdean has been very honoured to receive many foreigners who are interested in Blind Welfare. On June 4th Dr. and Mme. Dolanski visited Ovingdean with their interpreter. Dr. Dolanski, who is blind himself, is the President of the Polish Federation of Blind Workers; he was greatly impressed by the work of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners. Another distinguished blind visitor was Dr. Haas, who is the secretary for the only Dutch Society for "blind intellectuals"—the Association for the Professional Blind in Holland.

We were very pleased to have with us again for a few days, Sir Clutha Mackenzie. He was particularly interested in the possibility of transcribing Braille in Iranian.

We have been extremely fortunate in having many interesting lecturers at Ovingdean this month. On June 9th, Dr. Swinton, a senior guide and lecturer at the Natural History Museum, gave a talk on "The Origin of Life." Mr. Jarvis, from the C.O.I., gave an explanatory talk on the new National Health and Insurance Scheme, and Mr. Wadsworth, from the Intelligence department of the Midland Bank Head Office, came down on June 7th, the subject of his lecture was "Why Should We Save?"

The "'14-'18 Club" (The Bow and Arrow Club!) is still very active, and on June 2nd were the guests of the Brighton Grocers' Association; a very enjoyable trip was made to Eastbourne after lunch. Tea was waiting on arrival, which was followed by dancing and games; then on June 16th Major Brittain gave an interesting lecture on "Prison Reform."

The shocking weather has not marred the entertainment this month which started with the big event of Derby Day, which, in spite of the losses, was most enjoyable.

The mid-term dance took place on June 21st, with plenty of prizes and novelty events, the most amusing of which was a "pub crawl." During his dance at the Arlington, Mr. Cheeseman (of London) was presented by Joe Carney with a leather week-end bag and a table lamp, which were a token of the appreciation of the trainees for all the good times he has given to St. Dunstaners. Two very enjoyable visits were made to the Comus Club in Saltdean. The first, on Sunday, June 27th,

when the St. Dunstan's Choir—the soloists were Jack Cook, Joe Ormond and "Killie"—entertained a large and appreciative audience. The following evening a quiz team from Ovingdean successfully competed against a Comus Club team.

The members of the Darts Club have many enjoyable evenings in the games against clubs in and around Brighton, but the one which will live the longest in their memory is the recent visit to the Deaf and Dumb Social Club at Dyke Road. Their genial chairman, the Rev. N. Williams, B.Sc., introduced the "opponents." Each game was keenly contested, and our team eventually won the match by seven games to two. During the interval, refreshments were served, and it was a great pleasure for our team to have spent an evening in the company of a section of the community of whom the general public know little, and probably have no conception of how its members spend their leisure hours.

The sports fans were very fortunate to have the "News of the World" Sports Team to give a talk on June 8th. In the return shooting match against the Crawley Senior Scouts at Ovingdean, the Crawley Scouts won by 225 points to 220.

Further to the proposed Sports Day for September 18th, as published in the previous issue of the REVIEW, the closing date has been extended until September 1st. Will those who are interested please forward their names immediately, in order that the necessary arrangements may be made.

Raffle

Trainees in Ovingdean are running a Raffle to help the Battle of Britain Week in Brighton in aid of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund. The prizes include a wool rug (4ft. by 2ft.), a leather handbag, table lamp, hand-woven white silk scarf, bottles of gin and whisky, a miniature grandfather clock, shopping baskets, etc.

Tickets (to be sold at sixpence each) are in books of twenty at a cost of 10s. If any St. Dunstaner would like to take a book, will he please write at once to Matron Pain at St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, Brighton. The draw will take place on September 18th.

★ ★ ★

Jan Lasowski's little daughter, Anna Irene, was baptised on June 15th. Writing from Moselle, France, Jan says twenty-two persons came; he expected only five. One fetched cake, another a bottle of whisky, another a chicken. "I was surprised," he writes; "they wanted to show me their gratitude and friendship."

West House Notes

The month started well with the Grocers' outing to Eastbourne on June 2nd. Men, wives and escorts left West House in the afternoon for the Winter Garden, where a wonderful tea awaited them. This was followed by dancing and competitions, during which time beer was handed round. The party eventually broke up and everyone agreed that the drive home along the coast road was a perfect end to a most enjoyable afternoon.

On the 4th, we were given sixty seats for men and escorts to attend the dress rehearsal of the new show, "Limelight," at the Imperial. Then June 5th, and the eagerly-awaited Derby Day, which found West House in a state of excitement and anticipation. Fifty men and ten members of the staff clambered into the buses at 9.30 a.m. and set off in high spirits. It was a lovely sunny day, which helped to cheer those who were not as lucky as they might have been with the horses. An excellent lunch was provided by the Catering Officer.

The racing fans were again in their element with Lewes Races on the 7th and 8th, and Brighton Races on the 9th and 10th. The weather on the whole was kind during these four days, and although we set off in a minor cloudburst on the Thursday, it did not last long and the sun was soon shining.

We were delighted to welcome Canon Speight to West House on the 19th for lunch and a chat with the men, and again on Sunday, the 20th, when he gave the address at our Chapel Service, assisted by the Rev. Taylor and the soloist, Michael Mason.

Among the most popular of the month's entertainments were the outings to Barcombe Mills. The bus could have been filled twice over on each occasion and everyone seemed to enjoy everything from the very beginning—the drive there, the excellent tea provided by Mr. and Mrs. Brown, and even the uncertainty of being rowed up the river by anything but a competent oarsman! But when Miss Chaddock and Ted Hall ran aground and went halfway up a bank, it only added to the fun. Barcombe Mills has only to be mentioned for a queue to form outside the Lounge Office of men anxious to have their names first on the list for the next trip.

On the afternoon of June 25th, Sir Ian paid us a short but welcome visit. He

spoke to the men while they were having tea and was able to clear up a few points on the new Insurance scheme. We were only sorry that Lady Fraser was unable to accompany Sir Ian.

On July 31st there is to be a Whist and Domino Drive at West House at 8.15 p.m. Would those wishing to attend please write either to Matron or to the Lounge Sister as we are not issuing written invitations.

From the Chairman's Post-bag

"I am keeping quite fit and very busy. We get our eggs and bacon for breakfast; we are able to kill our own pig when we have signed a great number of forms, but it is worth the trouble and we must keep smiling—that is my motto—and we have much to be thankful for."

Northampton.

G. CHAPMAN.

"I wish also to thank you for the efforts you have been making on our behalf with the Ministry of Transport for more railway concessions for us, and to say how disappointed I am over the refusal to grant any, also the reasons for not granting any. I note that Mr. Henderson refers in his letter to the very wide concessions already allowed to blind and disabled persons and that it would be a considerable loss to revenue to grant any more concessions. I wonder how much bigger the revenue would be in a year's time if they did not grant so much free travel to their employees.

"I don't think much of the suggestion made by Miss Hodge to have a special news broadcast in the B.B.C. for the blind. At the present time we are getting eight news bulletins a day on most days of the week of news of a general character, equally interesting to most sighted and blind alike in most parts of the country; then there is the more local news broadcast by the Regions immediately after the 6 o'clock news. I am afraid if they attempt to broadcast a special bulletin, it would have to be of a local character on the lines of a local newspaper, and to do this effectively would need a lot more broadcasting stations; a special local news bulletin broadcast for Lancashire would not be very interesting for Yorkshire listeners, and much less further south. A similar suggestion was made in 'Progress' some time ago and did not lead to anywhere except for someone else's suggestion that the blind should take a share in actual broadcasting."

Oldham.

J. A. BOCKING.

“ In Memory ”

Private Alfred James Hornsby, *West Riding Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of A. J. Hornsby, of Sheffield.

He served from February, 1916, until March, 1917. He was wounded in France and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1919. He received training in boot and clog repairing, but for years he has been a very sick man. His son was killed in action during the recent war and from that time he had been in hospital, where he passed away on June 21st.

We extend our deep sympathy to his wife and family.

Births

BRETT.—On June 25th, to the wife of R. Brett, of Brighton, a son—David Richard.

DOUGLAS.—On June 21st, to the wife of J. L. Douglas, of Barking, a son—Frank Leslie.

EDWARDS.—On June 22nd, to the wife of J. L. Edwards, of Coventry, a son.

HIGGS.—On June 23rd, to the wife of E. Higgs, of Bradford, a daughter—Valerie Jean.

McCONNELL.—On June 12th, R. D. McConnell, of Bangor, Co. Down, a son—Alan Robert.

McINTYRE.—On July 1st, to the wife of K. H. C. McIntyre, of South Africa, now at Cambridge, a daughter—Fiona MacDonald.

SINGLETON.—On June 18th, to the wife of A. Singleton, of Skegness, a daughter.

WEBBER.—On July 2nd, to the wife of L. Webber, of Uxbridge, a son—Peter Richard Hallam. This is the grandchild of the late W. J. Hallam, one of the first twelve men admitted to St. Dunstan's.

Deaths

We extend our deep sympathy this month to the following:—

McCHEYNE.—To S. McCheyne, of Manchester, whose mother, with whom he lived, passed away on June 30th.

SARGEANT.—To W. Sargeant, of Cheriton, now in training, who lost his wife on July 2nd.

Marriages

FULBROOK—SULLIVAN.—On June 18th, F. C. W. Fulbrook, of Penge, to Miss Margaret Sullivan.

GRESSON—PALUMBO.—On July 3rd, F. Gresson, in training at The Grange, South Mimms, to Miss M. Palumbo.

MOONEY—LUTTRELL.—On June 19th, J. J. Mooney, to Miss Luttrell (amended notice).

YOUNG—JOHNSTONE.—On July 3rd, Robert Young, of Berwick-on-Tweed, to Miss Ruby F. Johnstone (“ Fairy of Brighton ”) at Ovingdean Church.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. F. Bush, February 11th, 1947; Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Rushton, Cullercoats, June 23rd.

Young St. Dunstaners

Paul Loveridge, the youngest son of A. Loveridge, of Harrow, has won a scholarship to University College School, Hampstead. His brother David is already there. The three sons and daughter of our St. Dunstaners have thus all won scholarships.

★ ★ ★

Edward Thompson, Sprotborough, who is attending Durham University, has been awarded a full travelling scholarship, which entitles him to a month at a University on the Austrian and Swiss Border, followed by a week's sightseeing.

★ ★ ★

Jeanette Shields, Leigh-on-Sea, has won a scholarship to Westcliff High School.

★ ★ ★

Geoffrey Pearce (Hendon) has been awarded a scholarship to Christ's College, Finchley.

Marriages:

William Healey, Bradford, Manchester, on June 26th.

Nora Firth, Heswall, on September 6th last, to Stanley Higgins; Lucy Firth, on June 19th, to Thomas C. Johnson; and Stanley Firth, on July 13th, to Miss Sheila Wood.

Births:

J. C. Glasspool had a son on June 20th. Dennis Campbell had a daughter on June 5th.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Capstick had a daughter on May 17th at Toronto, Canada. Within the last year, the Capsticks have had one great-grandson, one grandson and two granddaughters added to the family circle.

★ ★ ★

As in past years, there will be no REVIEW for the month of August.

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K. F. G.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

BRIGHTON HOME
GREAT BRITAIN
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20 AUG 48

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 352A—VOLUME XXXII

SPECIAL HOME EDITION
AUGUST, 1948

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

EVERY St. Dunstaner will be interested in the intensive Pensions Campaign which the British Legion has recently started and in the three Debates which have taken place in the House of Commons during the past month.

An exceptional amount of Parliamentary time and public attention has been focussed on this matter and every British Legion branch in the country, as well as branches of the Royal Air Forces Association and many kindred bodies are taking an active part including particularly the British Legion in Scotland.

I advise every St. Dunstaner, and, indeed every disabled and partially disabled Service man and woman who has not already done so, to join his local British Legion branch to keep in touch with events and help the campaign forward.

In view of this intensive activity we are publishing a special August edition of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW to bring our readers full information of all that is happening and in particular, to give certain St. Dunstaners the background of knowledge which is required for an important decision which they must make at once.

I refer particularly to those who receive the unemployability allowance. On the next page is printed the events which led up to the increase in the unemployability allowance from 20s. to 30s. a week, payable as from August 18th. On page 3, under the heading, "What You Should Do," you can read the advice which St. Dunstan's gives to all of its men or women who are receiving the unemployability allowance.

Although the Government has given them an option to stay out of the National Insurance Scheme, we nevertheless advise them most strongly to go in to it, taking advantage of the rise in the unemployability allowance itself to help pay the weekly contribution of 4s. 8d.

This advice I would give to every disabled man in receipt of the unemployability allowance even if he were not a St. Dunstaner, for the important reason that it ensures his widow a pension which is at present 26/- a week.

In the case of St. Dunstaners, there is all the more reason for joining the Insurance Scheme because following the practice of the past 22 years, we are offering to pay 2s. 4d. a week towards the cost of National Insurance for every St. Dunstaner.

This relief will be enjoyed by all but it is only those in receipt of an unemployability allowance who have to make a decision whether to go in or not, for everyone else under the age of 65 is compelled to enter the scheme.

If you have not already written to Mr. Askew in reply to the circular which you recently received, indicating your wish to go in, you should do so at once.

IAN FRASER.

BRIGHTON HOME
GREAT BRITAIN
PAID 1/-
20 AUG 48

10s. a Week Extra How Partial Victory for Unemployables Was Won

As readers will have seen from the full text which was sent out as a Supplement to the last REVIEW, Sir Ian Fraser, after making a powerful plea in the Commons on July 9th for all disabled ex-Servicemen whether employed or not, on the ground that the compensation they were now receiving was actually worth so much less than in earlier years, turned to the position of those who were unemployed and said: "Clearly their incomes are infinitely less and the compensation is due to them on grounds not merely of equity but of genuine hardship."

After explaining the full figures which were printed in the Supplement, Sir Ian added: "The majority of our severely disabled pensioners are living on money which is so much below the average wage rate to-day as to be ungenerous and even mean."

"If a man who is bedridden, paralysed, or blinded were to give himself the luxury of 10 cigarettes a day and one pint of beer a day, providing nothing for his wife, it would cost him £1 1s. 6d. a week out of his meagre pension. . . . If he has to find rent, there would not be very much for comfort."

On July 14th, Sir Ian Fraser moved a motion to challenge the regulations relating to overlapping benefits which were brought in by the Ministry of National Insurance. He said:

"There is a class of disabled ex-Servicemen who are unemployable. An ex-Serviceman in that class is not just unemployed, but is deemed to be unemployable, and he is in such a state that he is never likely to find work again. In addition to the war pension, to which he is entitled by Royal Warrant, he is entitled to an extra £1 a week, and that is called the unemployability allowance. This person, under these regulations, is not able to draw the sickness benefit which other people can have in other circumstances for the whole of their lives. He is not able to draw this with full advantage because, immediately he draws it, the £1 a week from the Ministry of Pensions is taken from him. That is what is meant by 'overlapping benefits.'"

"Now, there are two solutions I would put forward for these people. One solution would be to allow this overlapping and to

agree to this disabled person being allowed to join the scheme and pay contributions so that when he becomes 65 years of age he can take the full 26s. and continue to get the £1 a week. Another possibility would be to give him credits such as those given to students.

"The crofter is to be left out, but there is a temptation to him to come in because though, as might be the case, he can ill afford it, he may say, 'What shall I get?—I shall get two guineas for myself and my wife in my old age, and if I die there will be a substantial pension for my widow.' But under the present arrangement the temptation, or inducement, to the ex-Serviceman whose situation I have described is not very strong. He will pay 4s. 8d. a week to get 26s. and lose £1; or one could say that he would pay 4s. 8d. to get 6s., whereas the crofter will pay it to get two guineas.

"To try and meet this difficulty, the Government have said they will allow these ex-Servicemen to stay out altogether if they wish. What is the consequence of that? Their widows, along with the widows of gypsies and crofters, and a few other exceptionally poor people—and it follows also the widows of those disabled in industry who take the same option not to come in—will be the one group of widows who do not receive a widow's pension but have to go to the public assistance committee. We do not want to create, as the years go on, a pool of widows who are in an invidious position, and particularly we would not like that pool to be the widows of ex-Servicemen."

On July 29th, in yet a third Debate, Sir Ian Fraser opened the subject of war pensions generally; the matter was pressed again and the Minister of Pensions, after refusing to raise the basic rate, said:

"We have looked again at the special supplements which are payable in the light of the circumstances at the present time and the admitted fact that some prices have risen. The Government have decided that the unemployability supplement, which is now 20s. a week, shall be raised to 30s. a week. These rates of unemployability supplement, I should point out to the House, apply to all ranks of pensioners.

"So in future, the helpless pensioner, for whom we all feel the deepest sympathy, will receive 30s. instead of 20s. supplement."

What You Should Do

All St. Dunstaners who are at present receiving the Unemployable Supplement of 20s. per week will, with effect from August 18th next, receive an additional 10s. per week. The Ministry of Pensions will make this adjustment themselves and no application need be made by any St. Dunstaner. The Ministry hope that all these adjustments will be made by August 18th but there may in a few instances be a short delay in which case arrears will be given.

Some "unemployable" St. Dunstaners may feel that as the increased Unemployable Supplement now exceeds the Retirement Pension under the National Insurance Act, no benefit can accrue to them if they voluntarily enter the Scheme but they should remember that if they do not enter the Scheme, their wives will not be eligible for the Widow's Pension of 26s. a week on their death, nor the Death Grant of £20. They should also remember that a married man aged 65, with a wife who has herself attained 60 years of age, will be entitled by way of Retirement Pensions to 42s. a week, which is 6s. a week more than the Unemployable Allowances of 36s. a week.

We therefore strongly advise them to go into the Scheme and if they have not already completed the form of authority sent with Mr. Askew's letter, they should do so at once and return it to him.

There are some St. Dunstaners who originally received the Unemployable Supplement of 10s. a week and the 11s. or 12s. a week from their Approved Society and who, because of the increased Sickness benefit payable under the National Insurance Act, will have received a notification from the Pensions Ministry telling them of the cancellation of the Unemployable Supplement. This was at the time to their advantage, but now the Unemployable Supplement has been increased it is better for the St. Dunstaner to give up his Sickness Benefit altogether and to take once again his Unemployable Supplement. No action is necessary by the St. Dunstaner as the Ministry of Pensions have told us that they themselves will attend to the adjustment.

It appeared to us that in such cases, if the St. Dunstaner could continue to obtain

from his doctor Medical Certificates and send them as at present to the Ministry of National Insurance, he should be given automatic credit of contributions so that he would not have to find the 4s. 8d. a week which would otherwise be payable. We have taken up this matter with the Ministry of National Insurance and are happy to say that this procedure will be in order. If any St. Dunstaner is doubtful about this particular point and needs advice, he should write to Mr. Askew as it is essential that Medical Certificates should be sent as hitherto.

There are a few St. Dunstaners who cannot qualify for the Unemployable Supplement from the Ministry of Pensions, and St. Dunstan's in these cases is making them an equivalent allowance from their own funds. An increased allowance to bring them into line with the Government Scheme will be paid and the necessary adjustment will be made with the remittance sent on August 14th.

From Our Post-Bag

In forwarding a donation for St. Dunstan's from West Drayton and Yiewsley Branch of Toc H, the organiser sent a message of good cheer to all St. Dunstaners from Charles Hancock, a member of the branch. Mr. Freeborn, the organiser, added: "It is his wonderful spirit that has inspired us to carry through with this appeal."

A tribute to another St. Dunstaner, this time through a branch of the British Legion, has also reached us. It is from the Yeovil Branch Hon. Secretary, and he speaks of the good work being done for the Branch by F. J. Westaway, of Yeovil, who has on many occasions made mats for the Branch and presented them to raise funds for the Benevolent Fund.

John W. Gard, M.B.E., who is Hon. Secretary, Devon County, British Legion, has written a most useful Guide for Branch Secretaries and Members. Although he is just outside the definition of a St. Dunstaner, John Gard is one of St. Dunstan's best friends, and one of the most active workers in the Legion, to which he has given lifelong service. His Guide should be invaluable to Legion Branch officials.

Pensions Debated Again in the Commons

Opening the Debate in the House of Commons on July 29th on Service Disablement Pensions, Sir Ian Fraser said:

"It is a fact that, since 1919 progressively, and more particularly in the last ten years, wages have risen very materially—something between 60 and 200 per cent. The value of the pound has gone down. Since 1938 it has gone down from 20s. to 12s. In every sphere there has been an economic change. The payments made by the nation to all classes of hurt and maimed and old people have all been increased. Many of them have been increased by 50 per cent. and some of them have been doubled. Directors' fees, professional fees, the earnings of doctors, solicitors, journalists, even of Members of Parliament, have all been raised. How are our disabled ex-Servicemen of the two wars faring in these changed economic circumstances?

"Throughout the history of modern pensions' law and practice, all parties have recognised that the pension is paid, not for loss of earning power, but upon a medical assessment of the handicap which the particular disability places upon the individual. That handicap is presumed to exist—and believe me, it does exist—not merely in his work, but also in his play, and in his time of rest. Day and night the man has with him that handicap, be it great or small, always wearing him down and as he gets older, his capacity to stick to a job, or to enjoy his pleasure or his leisure becomes the harder.

"Even in the great slump of 1931," Sir Ian continued, "disabled men were better off because when the axe fell on everyone else and prices reached the bottom, their pensions remained the same. But from that day onwards they have seen the cost of living rise 60, 80, even 100 points, and all those in work have had is a 5s. a week rise."

The Minister had hinted in a previous debate that there was no need to do anything for these men because the majority of them had a job at the present time, but Sir Ian showed that this was no new point because ever since 1922 the overwhelming majority of all disabled men were in work.

The reason for the fairly full employment of disabled men had been the good sense and sympathy of private employers, of local

authorities and of Government employers, and the fact that the disabled man made up for his handicap by doing an extraordinarily good job and was well worth employing. Whether the pension was for the very severely disabled man and was relatively high, or whether it was a small percentage for the partially disabled, it was a make-weight for his handicap and it was no argument for not adjusting the make-weight to modern conditions to say that so many of these men were employed.

Any increase in war pensions should be *pro rata* for officers and N.C.O.s. He had seen it suggested that the few shillings a week extra paid to corporals, sergeants and warrant officers should be merged. Such a change was not only inadvisable and inequitable to those who had received it for thirty years but would only save 2 per cent.

Referring to the statement made by certain M.P.s that the miners were entitled to more money because of the risks of their industry, Sir Ian said,

"If it is a good argument to say that the risk which a man runs in his work in itself suggests the amount of compensation he should receive, then I submit to the House that the risks of war must be properly measured.

"While the emergency is on, and until the war officially comes to an end, the regular serving soldier, sailor or airman is looked after by the Ministry of Pensions if anything happens to him. If an airman is hurt in the flight to Berlin, he will be looked after by the Ministry of Pensions and will have all the advantages we have won for him in this House, of appeal tribunals, giving him the benefit of the doubt, and all the rest. The moment the war officially is over, the Regular man goes back to the care of the Army, the Navy or the Air Force, and they have to carry him on their official Vote. That ought to be altered. The Ministry of Pensions know their job well. They deal far more sympathetically and subject to rules which are better for the men, and if we are to have the Ministry of Pensions going on with this job so well, they might well be charged with the duty of looking after the small number of men who fall by the way in time of peace.

"I feel that we owe to the men who have been disabled in our service something financial at the present time because of the change in values since we compensated

them in 1919. It is a little ironical and sad that the men and women in our Services who preserved our way of life and made possible our advance towards the better world we are trying to build, should be those who, for physical reasons, cannot enjoy it. These men have saved our material civilisation and have saved many other hidden and spiritual things. We may well say of them—

‘Far have they come,
Much have they braved;
Give them their hour of play;
While the hidden things their hands
have saved
Work for them day by day.’ ”

The Minister of Pensions, Mr. Marquand, reviewed the work of his Ministry in general and stated that during the past ten years, many improvements had been made in pensions, allowances, eligibility and services.

Referring to Sir Ian Fraser's observations about unemployability, he said it must be easier for a man to get a job now than it was before the war. Mr. Marquand continued:

“In the light of the very large numbers who are in employment, in the light of the very substantial numbers receiving unemployability supplement, special hardship allowances, constant attendance allowances, treatment allowances, plus allowances for their wives and children, let us consider the question of the basic pension. Too many people imagine that the figure of 45s. which is quoted is the sole income for a war disabled pensioner. The misconception probably arises from this phrase ‘100 per cent. disabled.’ There are, as I said, 52,250 of these, but they are not all unemployed. The phrase ‘100 per cent.’ as it were, is almost a term of art. It does not mean what the uninstructed member of the public may imagine it means—a person confined to an invalid chair, unable to do work of any kind. It means simply that he is disabled to an extent sufficient to enable him to qualify for maximum pension.

“The figure of 45s. which has been referred to is, of course, the figure for a private soldier. The Hon. Member for Lonsdale (Sir I. Fraser) has already given interesting figures on that point which I have no desire to controvert. This Government raised the rate to 45s. in February, 1946, and it is now the same rate as that provided for civilians under the national

injuries scheme. The Government wants to assimilate as closely as it can the National Injuries scheme with the War Pensions Disablement provisions. As the House knows, we are trying in various ways to bring these together by special limb appliances, the assessment of disability, and the like.

“I do not deny for one moment—in fact I assert as strongly as the Hon. Member for Lonsdale—that this payment of the basic pension is compensation for disablement; for hardship and misfortune and the other eventualities following disablement. There are other allowances. I agree that we need not talk much about the cost of living or hardship when we are dealing with basic pension rates. That pension is a compensation for the injury done. The need of the unfortunate pensioner—the man suffering hardship—is met by our supplementary allowances. But the Government feel they cannot make additional payments to those who are fully employed.

“The Government cannot agree to change the basic rate because there are supplementary schemes existing outside industry. However, we have looked again at the special supplements which are payable in the light of the circumstances at the present time and the admitted fact that some prices have risen. The Government have decided that the unemployability supplement, which is now 20s. a week, shall be raised to 30s. a week. These rates of unemployability, I should point out to the House, apply to all ranks of pensioners.

“We have decided to improve the position of the other-rank pensioner receiving treatment allowances who is not eligible for sickness benefit under the National Insurance Scheme, by giving him an additional allowance of 20s. a week. These allowances can be paid only to the pensioner in hospital who has dependents. This also applies to the other-rank pensioner, but I should be prepared to look into any special cases of hardship of superior ranks if they are raised. These improvements will be introduced with effect from 18th August.”

Brigadier Peto (Barnstaple) warmly supported the points put forward by Sir Ian Fraser, and said that he and his friends on that side of the House were more concerned with whether or not a fair deal is being received by the 700,000 who are not 100 per cent. disability pensioners. The fact

which the Minister had mentioned that out of three-quarters of a million ex-Service pensioners, 2,430 were in receipt of the hardship allowance, was nothing to be proud of. He believed that the degree of injury—the loss of a leg, the loss of a husband—was the same, whether suffered in industry, in a road accident or on Service. There were two instances where the relationship between the industrial and Service disability pension was not identical. One was that the Service disability pension was in no way contributory. The other was that there was no opportunity for any bargaining on the part of the Service or ex-Service man.

Mr. Chetwynd (Stockton - on - Tees) thought it was not just the financial compensation which made all the difference between a disabled person enjoying or not enjoying life; there were many other considerations. He asked for three small points to be considered; the raising of the allowance for a private's wife from 10s. to 16s., thus bringing it into line with all other schemes; the assessment of unemployment benefit when a disabled man is unemployed; and the disparity existing between the pensions of privates and senior officers.

Captain Marsden (Chertsey) said the increase of $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the pension of the wounded ex-Servicemen compared with the increase in salaries of M.P.s (150 per cent.) and agricultural labourers (220 per cent.) was not fair or reasonable. He asked the Minister to read the speech of the hon. Member for Lonsdale (Sir I. Fraser). If that did not stir his heart, nothing would.

Mr. Parkin (Stroud) paid a generous tribute to the work of Mr. Webb, the pensions and employment officer of the British Legion. He added: "Nothing in terms of money can compensate for what these men have suffered and I am not only speaking of the physically disabled, because no man comes out of a war unscathed. Every man has to face his own problems. How much more is that the case for the disabled man? He has many more of these 'dark hours unseen' when he sometimes wonders if it had not been better never to have come back at all."

Lord Willoughby de Eresby (Stamford and Rutland) supported Sir Ian Fraser and suggested that as an alternative or second best to Sir Ian's proposal for an increase in the basic rate, the basic rate of pension for all other ranks should be raised to that of a

W.O.1, which would mean a rise from 45s. to 61s. 8d. a week. His opinion was that a disability pension should be based solely on the degree of disability and that the question of rank should not come into it.

He thought there should be a 100 per cent. plus assessment for disability. It was illogical and almost indefensible that when the Minister laid down with meticulous care scales for those with amputations, once one gets above 100 per cent., the Minister relied on various supplementary allowances from outside to make up the difference. People below 100 per cent. could draw the supplementary allowances; those who were over 100 per cent. should get some consideration. He also felt that if it was possible to scale the constant attendance allowance from five to twenty, there ought to be a step between twenty and forty.

Dr. Haden Guest spoke of the great increase in the numbers of disabled men who were now entitled to pension as a result of the extension of forms of assistance given, but he added: "Disabilities of any kind, contracted while in the Services, should entitle the Serviceman to proper compensation without any question as to attributability or aggravation."

Mr. Grimston (Westbury) said that the Minister could hardly object that members on both sides of the House had expressed disappointment with his speech for he turned down almost every suggestion which the Member for Lonsdale (Sir I. Fraser) made very movingly and very sincerely. Mr. Grimston compared some of the rises which had taken place in things which the average pensioner possibly wanted more than other people because of his disability—bus and tube fares, a glass of beer, and tobacco. Referring to the mining industry he said a scheme had just been approved under which five-sixths of the extra of compensation was to be borne by the public. It was obvious, from the fact that the scheme was approved, that the Government and Parliament were satisfied that the compensation was not sufficient. He could not imagine that on either side of the House, there was a wish to deny to the ex-Serviceman what was deemed to be expedient for another class of the community. To talk of degrees of risk was completely irrelevant.

Mr. Marquand said they thought it was reasonable to keep the rate for the disabled

war pensioners at the same level and to try gradually to assimilate the practice of the Ministry of Pensions, the Ministry of National Insurance and the Ministry of Health for the benefit of all classes in the community who are suffering from these disablements, to which Sir Ian Fraser replied:

"If the Government make so much of the point that it wants the soldiers', sailors' and airmen's scheme put on the same lines as the industrial scheme, how can the Minister reconcile that with not taking into account such an important and new situation as the supplementary schemes to the industrial scheme?"

Mr. Marquand: "Because those who work in the industries and contribute to a supplementary scheme are entitled to have all the benefits for which they contribute and because the vast majority of war pensioners are fortunately and happily in work and earning wages at the same rate as the rest of the community. Any disabled man has the right to benefit from a supplementary scheme as applied to his industry, at the same time as the more fortunate classes.

"The Noble Lord, the Member for Rutland and Stamford, raised points about the possibility of having a higher disability assessment than what we now call 100 per cent., and also about the constant attendance allowance. We have already discussed this to some extent with the association to which he belongs, and we will further consider what it has said, and what he has said to-night, and undertake that an answer will be sent to the association on this point before very long.

"Having said we want the social services assimilated to make wide provision for all kinds of disability and misfortune, I will say that I will consult with the Minister of National Insurance not only on the three points my Hon. friend the Member for Stockton-on-Tees (Mr. Chetwynd) raised, but also on the general question of trying to eliminate any anomalies that may exist between various schemes.

"These anomalies do exist, as my Hon. friend said, in the differing rates for compensation for the loss of the same kind of limb that are paid to the various ranks in the Armed Forces. However, retrospective alteration involving reduction of incomes would not be a fair proposition. I undertake to study the matters raised."

Free Motor Cars for Some Disabled

On June 7th, during the Committee Stage of the Finance Bill, Sir Ian Fraser moved a new clause to exempt from the purchase tax motor cars for 100 per cent. pensioners. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury rejected this on general grounds, but stated that the Minister of Pensions, as a result of pleas that had been made in the House by Mr. W. S. Shepherd, Sir Ian Fraser and other Members, intended to bring in an improved scheme for the supply of free motor vehicles for certain categories of disabled men and women.

In withdrawing his new clause, Sir Ian Fraser said that he did so with reluctance because he felt that any new scheme the Government brought in would benefit very few whereas the removal of purchase tax would benefit many.

On July 27th, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Minister of Pensions if he had any statement to make. The Minister replied:

"I am glad to say that a scheme has been been worked out in agreement with my Central Advisory Committee under which a limited number of small cars, not exceeding 1,500, will be made available over the next two years for supplying, free of charge, to certain classes of very seriously disabled war pensioners who may elect to receive a car in place of the motor propelled tricycle to which they are entitled under existing regulations. These classes consist of double leg amputees, of which at least one amputation is above the knee, paraplegics, and pensioners suffering from other disabilities resulting in the total, or almost total loss of use of both legs. When the needs of these classes have been satisfied, any balance of cars available within the number stated will be distributed on as fair a basis as possible to other very seriously disabled war pensioners at present supplied with motor propelled tricycles to enable them to obtain or retain employment, and also to blind war pensioners who require a car for the same purpose.

"The cars will remain the property of my Ministry and will be supplied under certain conditions and with proper safeguards in respect of the Department's liability as owners. The pensioner will be responsible for driving licence, garaging, repairs, and maintenance and running costs, but will receive an annual grant from my

Department towards the cost of these items. My Ministry will be responsible for payment of the road tax and comprehensive insurance."

Sir I. Fraser: "Whilst thanking the Minister for his statement, may I ask him first, when will he issue full details of this scheme; secondly, whether the 1,500 cars are for one year or two years; and thirdly, how many ex-Service men will get motor cars in addition to those who now have tricycles?"

Mr. Marquand: "In reply to the last of those questions, which I remember most easily, it is difficult to say, because we do not know how many of those who have a tricycle at present will opt for a motor car. There may be many who prefer to have a tricycle because it gives greater mobility in certain cases. The figure of 1,500 relates to a period of two years, mainly because of difficulties of supply at a time when it is necessary to export as many cars as we possibly can. I hope the details of the scheme will receive some publicity tomorrow so that pensioners will be aware of them, but we shall be sending out letters to all the eligible classes. However, I must reiterate what I have already said, that the figure of 1,500 is spread over a considerable period and it will take time to meet all the requests which we shall undoubtedly receive."

In a passage during the recent war pensions debate, Mr. Marquand, referring to the motor car scheme, said:

"The announcement which I had the pleasure of making to the House last week about the supply of motor cars, which will in itself, when it is fully in operation, cost something in the region of £500,000 or £1 million, indicated a new provision, which is one of many that are being made, for the purpose of trying to help the pensioner to live, so far as his disabilities will allow him, a normal life, to meet the normal community, to drive in the sunshine when we have it, to visit his friends and relatives, accompanied sometimes in his car by relatives, so that he does not go about in solitude. Everything that I can do to aid this constructive service I will do."

For Sale

CARAVAN, four berth, modern, new. £450 or nearest offer. Electric light, gas cooker, plenty of cupboards, wardrobe. Suitable for four people.—W. Collyer, 96 Bermondsey Street, Bermondsey, S.E.

Birth

LEE.—On July 12th, to the wife of J. A. Lee of Leeds, a son—Christopher John.

Death

NEWMAN.—We extend our deepest sympathy to R. Newman, of Hastings, who lost his mother on December 16th last.

Marriage

SPENCE—RAWSON.—On July 17th, E. Stewart C. Spence to Miss Joyce Rawson.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversaries:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. Whittingslow, Kidderminster, December 16th, 1947; Mr. and Mrs. W. Carthy, Rainworth, Manchester, August 1st; Mr. and Mrs. G. Wilkins, Reading, August 11th.

Right There

I cannot see, so I must ask my way around the town

*Or if the Station is uphill, or if the way is down.
My heart is filled with mirthless glee, when
carelessly they say*

*"Oh, that's all right, you turn 'Right there,'
and then you go 'That way.'"*

*"It's 'Straight ahead' before your eyes," and
they walk on, and then*

*I stumble on not knowing why, or what, or
where, or when.*

*So many times they say to me "Why, that's it
over there,"*

*With not a thing to show me, exactly, where is
"There."*

*The elevator is "Right There," the stairs are
"Right There," too—*

*I turn first right and then to left, I don't know
what to do.*

*"Right There's your bread, and here's your soup
and over there your tea,"*

*I find the water when I reach—it's spilled all
over me!*

*"Right There" the door I must walk through,
my chair is placed "Right There,"*

*"Right There" the desk I should meet you, but
you alone know where.*

*Just thoughtlessness I know, of course, but I'd
like folks to explain*

*Just where "Right There" is apt to be to us
who seek in vain.*

D. C. JAMES.

(Sent to us by A. R. Reynolds, of Shrewsbury.)

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 353—VOLUME XXXII

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

THE National Association of Magical Societies and the International Brotherhood of Magicians decided, for the year 1947, to conduct their National Day of Magic in aid of St. Dunstan's.

Mr. Tony Branson, who was appointed Organiser by the Societies for this day, accordingly issued an appeal to the Magicians of Great Britain to raise funds for St. Dunstan's. As a result, we have had a splendid cheque from these Societies all over the country.

One Society, the Institute of Magicians, in addition to subscribing, started teaching St. Dunstaners to do magic themselves and, as a result, some of the men who are members of our London Club have set up their own Magic Group, to which magicians come regularly to give lessons.

Most of us, I feel sure, at some time in our life, would like to have been magicians. I can well remember when I was a boy the greatest treat was to go to Maskelyne and Devant, at the famous Hall at the top end of Regent Street, which was destroyed in a blitz. I should still like to be a magician myself, but at fifty-one perhaps I am too old to begin; I must be content to be a politician.

In a talk with Mr. Tony Branson, he told me that he thought there would be magicians all over the country who would be willing to teach individual St. Dunstaners how to put on a few simple tricks. If, therefore, any St. Dunstaner is interested in conjuring, will he please write to me and I will see if there is a magician or a magical society near him who could help him along.

It is an agreeable paradox that conjuring, which, like acrobats and many other vaudeville turns, is the worst possible entertainment for the blind to attend, should be an admirable hobby when you are yourself the entertainer.

Talking of stage shows reminds me of an observation I have made which was emphasised when I had the pleasure of taking our Australian visitors to the Palladium soon after their arrival in Britain, namely, that the present-day music hall has become almost entirely visual, and is now of even less appeal to the blind than it used to be. I think this is due to the reaction of the stage show to broadcasting which, being wholly aural, gives wide currency to each new joke and takes the freshness out of it for the comedian.

Welcome, Australians !

I should like to give a formal welcome in the REVIEW to the eighteen Australians, under the leadership of Tom White, who arrived in Britain during the August recess for training at Ovingdean. I am sure that there is much that we can teach other each about the way to conquer blindness.

Adventure Unlimited

"The King's General," by Daphne du Maurier, has just come into circulation in the Talking Book Library. It is well read by Duncan Carse, and well recorded. Cloak and sword, love and intrigue, are the ingredients of a rattling good historical novel of the war between King and Parliament in the 1640s. The West Country men described by the author, whether on the Royalist or Parliamentary side, were as cruel and unscrupulous as the worst European or Asiatics, indeed, mutilation and the destruction of property for no good reason except revenge, and as a result of fear, seemed to go farther. The heroine of the book is a disabled woman; an interesting psychological study. An exciting story of escapes, battles, loyalties and perfidy, well-written and very easy to listen to.

"Brown on Resolution," by C. S. Forester, read by F. P. Bayley, gave me a very enjoyable escape from the cares of to-day by taking me back to the thrills of the hunt for commerce raiders at the outset of the first war in the Pacific. Forester knows how to tell a sea story, and his characters are as interesting and human as usual. His love for and admiration of the Royal Navy is infectious. A thrilling story of adventure. If you are fed up with war stories, or think you are, you will still enjoy this, I am confident. Personal heroism and the drama of battle between giant ships will carry you away. This book is recorded at 33 r.p.m., though it is an English recording. There are technical reasons for this, connected with shortages of materials, which the reader need not worry about except that, as in the case of the Americans, each record only lasts about sixteen minutes. This is a good recording with very little scratch, but the reader does not pronounce many words acceptably. He is, however, friendly, and the book gave me much pleasure.

Loyal Service

"Thirty-five years ago, Miss Martha Wood, a young Scots V.A.D., went to work at St. Dunstan's, in London, and from that day on she has devoted her life to helping those blinded on war service. Yesterday, when she took part in the reunion of North East St. Dunstaners, in Newcastle, the measure of her popularity was not difficult to gauge. Whenever she stopped to chat to any of these blinded ex-servicemen of both wars, she was greeted with smiles, and during the luncheon warm tributes were paid to her work. For Miss Wood it has been far from a sit-at-home job. Living in Glasgow, as a welfare visitor, she is responsible for about 130 blinded men in Scotland, Northumberland, Durham, and Cumberland. Each one is visited at his home twice a year, besides any extra calls in case of sickness or trouble. It has meant thousands of miles of travelling for this slight, grey-haired Scotswoman, but she has never lost her charming smile, and it is easy to see that a visit from her is like a tonic when things seem to be going wrong."

This was an extract from a Darlington newspaper. It needs no comment, except that Miss Wood's outstanding service is typical of that given to St. Dunstan's by many of our After-Care Visitors, both men and women.

IAN FRASER.

Club Dance

The London Club is organising a Dance, to be held in the Great Cumberland Hall, Bryanston Street, Marble Arch, on Thursday, September 30th, from 7.30—10.30 p.m. Admission by ticket, 1s. 6d., obtainable from any member of the Committee or from Mr. Willis, the Club Steward. Refreshments at moderate prices. Remittances for the number of tickets required must accompany each application.

Ernie Cookson's Band will play.

Medals and Decorations

Those who have not already done so are reminded for the last time that any mistakes or omissions in the Honours List, which appeared as a supplement to our July issue, should be notified to Headquarters at once, and in any case not later than September 30th.

Mr. Kessell's Funeral

Among the names of those present at Mr. Ernest Kessell's funeral should have been included that of Sergt. Alan Nichols, representing St. Dunstaners. We must apologise to "Nick" for this unintentional omission.

London Reunion Dance

The London Reunion Dance will take place on **Monday, November 8th**, at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place (close to Marylebone Tube Station), from 7.30—11 p.m.

It must be understood that the Dance is primarily for those who can return to their own homes the same night, as it will not be possible to book any accommodation in London.

Tickets will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort (it is much regretted that children under 16 cannot be included), and applications for tickets should be made to Mr. Mackay at Headquarters, **as soon as possible** and in any case not later than Monday, October 18th.

An Important Study

F. Le Gros Clark, author and journalist, has made an important contribution to the SIGMA series, "Introductions to Science." His book, "Feeding the Human Family—Science Plans for the World Larder," has just appeared.

Since the early 'thirties, our St. Dunstaner has been associated with the scientific and medical committees concerned with the study of food and the social reforms connected with this subject. During the recent war, he issued a series of reports on the various communal feeding services. A more recent publication has been a booklet, "The Social History of the School Meals Service." Praising this booklet, a *Times* leader describes its author as "one of the small band of food sociologists who have done so much to alter the public attitude to child nutrition."

News from Australia

At the Royal National Exhibition of Queensland, which has recently been held, our St. Dunstaner, J. T. S. Scrymgeour, of Warwick, Queensland, took one championship, one reserve championship, four firsts, seven seconds, and three thirds with "Netherby Stock."

St. Dunstaners will recall the article on our St. Dunstaner by Norman Bartlett, of the Australian News and Information Bureau, which appeared in February.

Tom Fisher, of Longforgan, read this article, and through it has introduced to our Australian St. Dunstaner another Scrymgeour, who lives in his village.

Retirement Pension and Unemployability Supplement

Before they attained the age of 65, a small number of St. Dunstaners were receiving as an addition to their Disability Pensions a Supplement given to them on account of their "unemployability." When the St. Dunstaner reached the age of 65 he became eligible for the Retirement Pension, and because he could not receive both the Retirement Pension and the Unemployability Supplement the Supplement was cancelled, leaving him with the Retirement Pension.

The Government have now increased the Unemployability Supplement to 30s. a week, and because of this increase it will be to the advantage of the St. Dunstaner, in nearly every case, to give up his Retirement Pension and revert to the Unemployability Supplement.

I raised the matter with the Ministry of Pensions, and they now inform me they will be making the necessary adjustments as soon as possible, and that arrears, which will be the difference between the Retirement Pension of 26s. and the Unemployability Supplement of 30s., will be paid with effect from the 18th August. No application need be made by the St. Dunstaner.

The only cases where it will not be to the advantage of the St. Dunstaner to revert to the Unemployability Supplement will be where he is over 65 and his wife is over 60. In those cases the St. Dunstaner will be receiving a Retirement Pension of 26s. and his wife will also be receiving a Retirement Pension of 16s., giving them a total of 42s. a week, which is greater than they would receive if they were to take the Unemployability Allowances.

W. ASKEW.

Musical Successes

Congratulations to N. M. Steel, of Brighton, and his family upon their success at the recent Brighton Musical Festival. In the Original Composition Section, our St. Dunstaner secured four firsts and two silver challenge cups (one was for the best composition in the Festival). Mrs. Steel won the premier award and silver cup in the Chopin piano playing class, and a second in the diploma class, and Miss Janet Steel won a second and third award for violin playing.

Physiotherapy Conference

A record attendance of St. Dunstan's physiotherapists and student physiotherapists met at the Training Centre, Ovingdean, on August 28th, for their Annual Conference. Sir Ian Fraser presided and Lady Fraser was present, and during the course of the proceedings, most valuable lectures were given by Dr. L. Guttman, who is Neurological Surgeon in charge of the Head and Spinal Injury Centre at the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Stoke Mandeville, and by Dr. James Henry Cyriax.

Gift Food Parcels

During the last two years, over two thousand food parcels have been despatched direct to St. Dunstaners through the kindness of Mr. Arthur Richardson and other friends in South Australia. This is a magnificent total, and I have written to Mr. Richardson on many occasions, thanking both him and the kindly donors for their wonderful generosity.

The majority of the parcels bear the name and address of the donor, and several St. Dunstaners have written direct, expressing their thanks. Mr. Richardson tells me that these letters are very much appreciated, and I would be grateful if more and more St. Dunstaners would write direct to the lady or gentleman in Australia, whose kindness has made the parcel possible. I can assure you that your letters will be most welcome, and will do much to foster the strong bond of friendship which already exists. A. MACKAY.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to the following upon their anniversaries: Mr. and Mrs. P. Ingham, Liverpool, January 10th last; Mr. and Mrs. K. Howes, Montrose, September 19th.

Of Course !

This story was told to us by Sergt. Nichols. It is absolutely true.

Our St. Dunstaner, C. E. Temperton, and his wife were sitting in the garden; the two little girls next door were talking. This was their conversation.

Six-year-old: "But how does Princess Elizabeth know she's going to have a baby?"

Four-year-old: "Don't be silly, Eileen; it's in all the papers, and she can read, can't she?"

Reunions

Reunions have gone on steadily throughout the summer months. At Wolverhampton, on July 9th, at the Civic Hall, the Mayor, Alderman H. E. Lane, J.P., who was accompanied by the Mayoress, welcomed the guests, and Mr. W. Leighton, Chairman of South Staffs. British Legion, was another visitor. At Newcastle, on the 15th, Captain William Appleby, O.B.E., a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council and President of the Northumberland Branch of the British Legion, presided. Captain Appleby referred to Sir Ian's speech in the House of Commons on the previous Friday, in support of increased pensions for the war-disabled, and a message of greetings and thanks was sent to Sir Ian from Captain Appleby on behalf of the St. Dunstaners assembled there. The Leeds Reunion was at the Queen's Hotel on the 17th. The Lord Mayor, Alderman G. Brett, O.B.E., J.P., welcomed the guests. The Lady Mayoress was also present and the British Legion was represented by Lieut.-Col. R. Grimshaw, O.B.E., J.P., a member of the National Executive Council.

We came south to Maidstone on August 5th, where Mr. Mackay presided. Lt. Col. F. C. D. Newport, Chairman of the Kent Council of the British Legion, was present, and among the St. Dunstaners present we were delighted to welcome "Grandpa" Beaufoy—Mr. C. E. Beaufoy, former Chief Constable, Special Police, Dover, and a former Mayor of Dover.

A month later, on September 4th, we travelled to Grimsby. In the absence of the Mayor, who regretted his inability to attend but sent a warm message of greeting, Mr. Mackay presided and Major G. S. Bloomer, M.C., President of the Lincolnshire County Committee, British Legion, was also a guest.

Chess

C. Durkin, of York, writes: "Dr. Ross, who is the husband of the Hon. Organiser of our Collection in Hemsworth, is a keen player of Chess. He would like to know if any St. Dunstaners living in this area would like to play matches against him and his friends, either at a central point to be arranged or by correspondence. Hemsworth is in the Pontefract area, and not too far away from Leeds."

Will Chess players who are interested, get in touch with Durkin, at 23 Queen Anne's Road, York.

West House Notes

In spite of the weather, which has not been very kind to us, the past two months have been packed with a variety of entertainments at West House, and it will not be possible in this small space to give more than a brief account of it all.

July 14th brought the annual Southdown Busmen's Outing. A cheery crowd left at 9.30 a.m. for Midhurst, where the men marched through the town to the lively accompaniment of the Patcham Boys' Band. Then they adjourned for lunch, plus beer and cigarettes, followed by a drive to Cowdray Ruins, where there was dancing on the lawn. After this came tea and the drive home, stopping at Crocker Hill for beer and snacks, with the party finally reaching West House at about 10 p.m.

While most of us were mopping our brows and looking for a bit of shade, the racing fans, like "mad dogs and Englishmen," were all set for Goodwood Races on on the 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th.

Saturday, July 31st, saw the beginning of the Bank Holiday programme. Miss Morris and Orderly Webster organised the sports in the afternoon. The judges were Mr. Banks, Mr. Lale, and Mr. Mercer, and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Fawcett.

On Sunday morning, two busloads left for a 37 mile run to Bramber for coffee, returning via Shoreham and a stop at the Surrey Arms Hotel for a stirrup cup. At 5.15 p.m. the Chapel was packed to capacity (extra seats being placed in the Chapel yard) for the service in memory of Bill Hawketts.

On Bank Holiday Monday, one bus and two carloads left for a circular tour of 35 miles; the party returned to West House in good time to array themselves in their fancy head-dresses for Café Continental in the evening. Unfortunately, the weather made it quite impossible for this to be held in the garden, as we had planned, and it was all hands on deck to transfer everything to the Conservatory. The first event was the judging of the head-dresses by Mrs. Dacre, Mrs. Fawcett, and Miss Gregory, who was also our "star" of the evening.

Nick Carter and his Modernairs provided music for dancing and singing, and Colin Sydney had a rival in Father Power, who also sang popular songs. Perhaps one of the most crowded corners was around the Bier Garten, where Herr Mason, in Tyrolean dress, was kept busy drawing beer, which

was served at record speed by Frauleins Chaddock, Cox and Morris. Madam Zarah was a much-sought-after person, and there always seemed to be a queue of people waiting to have their fortunes told.

August 4th—7th, and 27th—28th, found the racegoers champing at the bit to be off to Brighton and Lewes Races.

On August 6th a dance was held to welcome the Australians to West House, and we hope that Miss Arnold did not make them feel homesick by decorating the walls of the Lounge and Conservatory with kangaroos!

August 23rd will go down in the history of West House, for it was on that evening that the Motor Yacht Club arranged an outing for the men, organised by Jack Sullivan and Mr. Ferguson.

The Stag Party set off at 5 p.m., complete with accordion players. Their destination was Strood's, where the most wonderful banquet was provided, the highlight of this being the fact that cold chicken was eaten Henry VIII style. There was a great deal more than chicken to eat; it would not be fair to go into details! As one of the men said afterwards: "It was the best party since Sir Arthur was knighted." Never has a happier crowd returned to West House from any outing.

On August 26th we went to Sidley for an enjoyable Social, organised by Miss D. A. Osborne and her whist drive players.

Other highlights of the month was a concert, given by Miss Hebe Simpson, Miss Tomms and Father Power, on August 15th, and a visit on August 20th to the United States destroyer, "Willard Keith," including coffee and cigarettes on board.

Sir Ian was well supported by representatives from West House when he made his very excellent speech at the Dome on Sunday, August 30th. This was Sir Ian's 51st birthday, and in response to a number of telegrams sent by different groups at West House, Sir Ian telegraphed: "Sometimes I feel one hundred and one; sometimes twenty-one. To-day I am fifty-one, and I express my very great pleasure and send my thanks for their very good wishes to the group in the garden, the old boys in the Lounge, the lads in the Sick Bay, the boys in the rug-room, and to Ousel and her Odd Bods."

We say "Cheerio" from West House until next month.

Ovingdean Notes

Herr Hans Voigt, head of the German War-Blinded Organisation before the war, visited Ovingdean for three days during the early part of the month. Herr Voigt, who was blinded himself in the first World War, was escorted by his son, Dr. Heinz Voigt. They were both extremely interested in all they saw, and in particular the plastic shop and the handless loom, since there has been a large number of handless blind Germans from the second war. Herr Voigt joined the Discussion Group on one morning of his visit.

Two very interesting lectures this month were given by Mr. McGregor, on "Homicide in the Law," and by our old friend, Col. Davys, O.B.E., B.A., whose subject was on the scientific approach to food problems. The senior pupils of the Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School were invited to the debate on July 19th: "That the creation of a world in which all people should have equal rights is the only solution to the problems in the world to-day." The majority voted against this motion, which was rather a big subject for young people. Their History Master, who accompanied them, took away with him a few hints from the way Ovingdean runs its Debating Society.

A new feature here is a "Shop" in the Lounge each Tuesday morning, which is run by two W.V.S. members. One can buy many useful items and an excellent variety of sweets—not off coupons!

Two evenings this month have been devoted to a very excellent Public Concert, given by the Choir in aid of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund. The Music Hut was packed on each occasion, and the audiences were extremely appreciative of the high standard of the concert, and the time and work which made it so.

Solos were given by Joe Ormond, Sid Kitson, Bob Osborne, Joe Walch and Les White, Les being the very able producer. Two monologues were amusingly rendered by Killie, and the very competent compère was, of course, Tommy Rogers.

Early in the month our Darts team competed successfully against the South Norwood Chamber of Commerce team, at South Norwood, the team on this occasion including Tommy Rogers, Bert Baldwin, Ron Tingay, Charles Campkin and Joe Carnay. Another very enjoyable evening

was spent with members of the Deaf and Dumb Social Club, when they visited Ovingdean to play their return Darts Match, which was won by Ovingdean by 8 games to 1. After the match, refreshments were served in the Braille Library where, with the assistance of Matron and Commandant, conversation was carried on very satisfactorily.

Sports Day this year was very disappointing as far as the weather was concerned. Half the programme was carried out in a fine drizzle, but after tea this had to be abandoned in favour of a dance in the Lounge so, after many strenuous practices, the Ovingdean team did not get the chance to win the cup! After everyone had managed to get themselves dried, the dance was a great success, and a splendid reunion.

It hardly seemed possible that one week later, when the end of term dance was held in the Lounge, we should be in the middle of a heat wave. However, in spite of the heat, the dancers did not hesitate in taking part in a jitterbug competition, arranged by Commandant, or doing the Highland Fling. Several trainees gave a very good entertainment during the interval, compèred by Commandant.

So we came to the end of another successful term. We look forward to welcoming our new Australian friends next term. Au revoir and good luck to all who have left us.

Placements

As shopkeepers: F. C. W. Fulbrook (Penge), F. D. Howe (Newcastle-on-Tyne), W. Lethbridge (Oldham), W. Rutledge (Belfast), and D. E. Taylor (Swindon); W. Crabbe (Treherbert) and W. Carr (Rochdale), as upholsterers with Messrs. Parker-Knoll, Ltd., High Wycombe; Alan Moore, as a telephonist with Messrs. Schweppes, Hendon; D. McGoohan, as a telephonist at the Ministry of Labour Training School, Watford; W. Orange, on inspection work with Messrs. J. Fowler and Co., Leeds; J. T. Jones, on spool-winding and film-packing, with Dufay Chromex, Ltd.; J. Dickey, as a pavior with Messrs. L. Marr & Sons, Liverpool; J. Ince, as a capstan operator with De Havilland Propellers, Ltd., Lostock, Bolton; and A. Downman, with Torridge Vale Dairies (Devon) Ltd., Torrington, on conveyor duties.

Bust of St. Dunstaner as Memorial

A bronze bust of Edward Slaughter, of Salisbury, was, on July 25th, presented by Sir Eugen Millington-Drake to Eton College, and placed in the Macnaghten Library "as a symbol of fortitude and suffering on the Somme during the First World War." This Library, of about five thousand books autographed by the authors, was collected by Sir Eugen as his contribution to the First World War effort.

Mr. and Mrs. Slaughter were present at the ceremony, when the bust was accepted by the Provost, Sir Henry Marten. A plaque bears the name of the sculptor, Mr. Harold Youngman, of Chelsea, and the rank, name, age and details of our St. Dunstaner's blinding on the Somme in 1918, with the words which we have quoted above.

The bust was completed in the spring of 1939, when it was shown in the Royal Academy.

Test Results, April

Preliminary.—T. Hurl, T. Gaiger, J. Wilson, S. Bekhrad-nia, V. Reeves, E. Warren, W. Harby, A. Pollitt, A. Pointon, W. Thomas, M. Burns.

Senior.—G. A. Prince, J. Davies, R. Botley, G. Richards, F. Warin, J. Delaney, F. Ripley, C. J. Fawcett, F. E. Parker, F. C. Fleetwood, T. Rogers, S. Girling, W. Farmery, V. Formstone, A. J. Radford, M. Delaney, M. Burns.

Advanced.—W. Castle, R. Cameron, C. J. Fawcett, M. Burns.

Writing.—A. Pointon, T. Hurl, W. Harby, S. Edgar, E. W. Read.

Typing.—A. Pointon, E. Oxborrow, F. Simonds, H. Driver, F. Nicholson, G. Jones, J. Braithwaite, H. Briggs, J. Hodgson, R. Pringle, F. Steventon, J. Hawkins, S. Oliver, W. Jay, S. Wolkowicz, R. Green, J. Loska, J. Langley, A. Hill, J. Ormond, S. Bekhrad-nia, R. Harmsworth, E. Jager, A. Hodges, T. Hurl, J. French, A. Carpenter, J. Whitley, D. Cribben, H. Allsop, C. Pilgrim, A. Carrick, W. Hamer, T. Myles, W. Sargeant, E. Warren, T. Gaiger, H. Langton, G. Ellis.

Grandfathers

H. Blakeley, Okehampton; J. Triggs, Ashford (to a grandson and granddaughter).

Mr. W. H. Hawketts

It is with deepest regret that St. Dunstaners everywhere will hear of the death of Mr. W. H. Hawketts, M.M. Every man who has visited Brighton will remember Bill Hawketts with affection.

Since April, 1920, he had been part of the daily life of our Homes—at Cheltenham, West House, Ovingdean, Church Stretton, and again, as Quartermaster, at Ovingdean. His whole life was devoted to the welfare of St. Dunstan's men.

The funeral took place at Brighton Crematorium. There were many flowers, among them a wreath of poppies bearing the words "In remembrance of a devoted friend of blinded ex-service men and women of both World Wars from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser and the Council of St. Dunstan's, and St. Dunstaners all over the world."

On Sunday, August 1st, a Memorial Service was held at West House. The Chapel was filled to overflowing. Padre W. J. Taylor, who conducted the service, spoke of our old friend as a man who had won the affection of his fellow men by his patience, sympathy and understanding. It might be said of him that he gave his life for St. Dunstan's. He has passed out of the sight of men, but not out of their memory.

During the service, Joe Walsh, accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Joan Osborne, sang "Nearer my God to Thee" and "Requiem." George Birkett was at the organ.

Matron Pain writes:—

"There are many who can speak of the whole-hearted and untiring service Mr. Hawketts gave to St. Dunstan's at Cheltenham, West House and Ovingdean, but at no time could his qualities have been of greater value than during the early years of the last war when the move to Church Stretton took place and the Training Centre was started in Longmynd.

"His knowledge of St. Dunstan's men and their ways was invaluable, and none who were with us will ever forget his loyal co-operation and help."

★ ★ ★

Mr. Argyle

Men in Mrs. Argyle's area will learn with the deepest regret that her husband has died, after a long and painful illness.

“ In Memory ”

Rifleman Raymond Thomas Harding, 1/6th City of London Regt.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of R. T. Harding, of Cirencester, after a long illness.

Ray Harding came to St. Dunstan's in 1916. He was blinded by the premature explosion of a bomb while serving with his regiment, which he had joined at the outbreak of war in August, 1914. He was trained as a shop-keeper and his capacity for hard work combined with his cheerful personality made him one of our most successful men in that calling. He was a keen member of the British Legion and of the R.A.O.B.

The funeral service took place at Cirencester Parish Church, prior to the cremation ceremony at Cheltenham.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the many flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Harding and family.

Sergeant Joseph Kirkham, 14th Worcestershire Regt.

With deepest regret we also record the death of J. Kirkham, of Swanmore.

Blinded in the second battle of the Somme, in 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's shortly afterwards and received training in poultry farming and basket-making. After a few years' poultry farming in Herefordshire, he moved to Swanmore in 1926, and he carried on basket-making there. During the last twelve months his health has gradually failed. He had for some time been at West House, but he became worse and was removed to hospital, where he died.

He was buried in the St. Dunstan's section of Brighton Cemetery. Matron Ouseley and many comrades and members of the West House staff were present. Among the flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades and another from the Swanmore Branch of the British Legion.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. Kirkham and her son.

Births

ARMISTEAD.—On September 8th, to the wife of G. Armistead, of Culcheth, Lancs., a daughter—Doreen.

BICE.—On August 8th, to the wife of T. Bice, of Tottenham, a daughter—Yvonne Lesley.

BROOMFIELD.—On August 13th, to the wife of F. J. Broomfield, of Weybridge, a second daughter—Rose Mary.

BURNHAM.—On August 26th, to the wife of A. Burnham, of Oxford, a daughter—Marian Joan.

DICKERSON.—On September 1st, to the wife of F. Dickerson, of Thornton Heath, a son—John Anthony.

GIMBER.—On March 7th, to the wife of S. Gimber, recently of Brighton and now of Beckenham, a son—George Lister.

GUYLER.—On August 29th, to the wife of A. Guyler, of Grays, a son—John Joseph Anthony.

HOYLE.—On August 12th, to the wife of C. Hoyle, of Chadderton, a daughter—Joan.

MILLER.—On August 18th, to the wife of J. Miller, of Glasgow, a son—Alexander.

Death

DANIELS.—We offer our deep sympathy to E. C. Daniels, of Norwich, in the loss of his mother.

Marriages

POOLE.—On September 1st, I. H. Poole, of Redditch, to Mrs. Gladys Smith.

TINGAY—WHITE.—On September 4th, R. Tingay, of Brighton, to Miss Joyce White.

Camp, 1948

A party of St. Dunstan's men, numbering about fifty, spent a very enjoyable week at the Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, from Friday, August 6th.

The first two days were left open for us to settle in, but for most of us the merry-making commenced immediately. We soon got to know the sailors and Wrens, and in small parties travelled to and from the local “pub.” After a Church Service at Titchford, on Sunday morning, beer was given in the Ward Room, where we met many old friends. Other social evenings were given by the Petty Officers of both 23 and 34 Mess; there was tea and dancing with the Wrens in Heathfield House; an evening with the Chief Petty Officers, and a Grand Finale evening with Ratings in the “Hutted Camp Canteen.”

Although the weather was not kind, we were able to have trips on the Solent and tours of the airfield. A grand surprise awaited us on Friday, the 13th, for permission was granted us to go aboard the *Queen Elizabeth*.

The Camp was broken up on Saturday morning, and we all came away with very happy memories and a sincere hope that next year will find us once more aboard the “Daedalus.”

B. B.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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NEWS FROM ALL QUARTERS

A St. Dunstan's Settler

From the *Cape Times* comes news of W. B. Riley, who left England for South Africa at the beginning of the year.

With good experience of the catering trade, he has become "mine host" of the Round House, Cape Town, and he told a reporter of the newspaper that he had found "complete happiness." He makes all the arrangements for the restaurant and guest-house, supervises the staff, and has been taking his share in the renovation work. His St. Dunstan's training came in useful when the wicker chairs were to be repaired.

Mrs. Chadwick Bates says she is delighted with the progress he is making.

St. Dunstaner Flies to America

From the "Daily Express" October 6th:—

"When Thomas Till's sister emigrated from Lancaster to Arizona in 1914, Thomas was 29. He vowed he would visit her one day. And he saved. Three years later, he lost his sight. But he went on saving, with his goal—Arizona.

"Last night, 63-year-old Thomas Till kissed his wife at London Airport. On the arm of an air hostess he walked to a plane.

"He said: 'It will be grand to hear my sister's voice again.' Then he set off 5,000 miles to Arizona."

.

Our St. Dunstaner will be away for six months. Just before he left his younger daughter, Marjorie, was married.

Blowing his own Horn

Cecil Purkis, of Preston, Canada, recently retired from poultry farming after thirty years. He played the cornet before he lost his sight but poultry farming did not leave him much time for practising. Now he has taken it up again and his fame is growing. He began by being in demand at gatherings of the Canadian Legion. Then he accompanied the local team to hockey games and played in the intervals. Now he goes everywhere with the team to their moral and musical support. He gets complete enjoyment out of his playing. "It's the thrill of my life," he says.

Walter Bowen

E. Denny, of South Africa, has sent us a copy of *The Patriot*, which is the official journal of the Sons of England Society, of which the late Walter Bowen was a Grand President. In a moving tribute to his great qualities, the journal says: "The Order has suffered a sad and a heavy loss. . . . We have lost a Brother of a lovable character at a time when our need of him was greatest." At Cape Town, judges, barristers and attorneys crowded one of the Civil Courts of the Supreme Courts to pay their tribute to his memory.

48th Anniversary

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. I. Corns, recently of Kenton, and now living in Australia, who celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on June 3rd. They have ten children, all living, and fifteen grandchildren—and they ask if this is a record.

St. Dunstan's Thanks the R.A.F.

On September 20th, at the Training Centre, Ovingdean, a sum of £260 in notes was handed to Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre, Chairman of the Brighton and Hove Committee of the Battle of Britain Week, by Ted Penny and Miss Carlton. This magnificent total was the result of the Training Centre's own effort for the Battle of Britain Week which included a grand raffle and a Dance held in July.

Air Commodore Dacre, expressing his pleasure and thanks, said that this was the biggest single contribution that had been raised by any organisation within the Brighton and Hove area. (After the presentation a further gift of £8 was received, making the contribution in all £268).

Among those present at the ceremony was Mrs. Bentley Dacre and other members of the Battle of Britain Week Committee, and Commandant Fawcett.

Included in the Brighton and Hove total was a sum of £260, which had been raised by the sale of programmes printed and produced by a St. Dunstaner, Squadron-Leader W. T. Curtis-Willson, and another £72 by the raffle of a "Don Bradman" bat also generously presented by him.

This bat, autographed by the England Test players and the Australian cricketers who toured here this summer, has been won by Miss Barbara Robins, South Lodge, Beach Road, Bournemouth (Ticket No. 489). Miss Robins was formerly a member of the temporary staff at St. Dunstan's, West House. She is giving the bat to one of her nephews.

Raffle Results

No of Ticket	Article	Name
6543	Clock	Edna Marley, Portslade.
548	Wool Rug	Mrs. A. Bramson, Bromley.
8931	Handbag	Mrs. E. Richardson, London, S.W.2.
933	Plastic table lamp	Mrs. Hall, Rottingdean.
4657	Wood table lamp	Miss Duberly, Portslade.
3700	Whisky	Mrs. Murray, Worthing.
9973	Gin	Mr. A. L. Stroud, London, S.W.8.
1604	Cigarette lighter	Mr. E. M. Davies, Dunstable.
8353	White silk scarf	Mr. L. Banks, Ovingdean.
6693	R.A.F. scarf	Miss Jean Jennings, London, N.16.
2114	Fraser scarf	Mr. J. Pettitt, Hove.
8711	Tea tray	Mrs. Dodds, Worcester.
9270	Yardley perfume	Mrs. Bridgeland, Hove.
5136	Tea tray	John Mutton, Newcastle.
974	Cocktail shaker	Toler, c/o Lucy Ann, Rottingdean.

8284	Calendar stand and dog-lead	Mrs. Browning, Portslade.
7139	Cigarette box and 50 cigarettes	Mr. J. Pettitt, Hove.
3527	Button holes	Dusty Miller, Brighton.
8549	Shopping basket	Mr. A. G. Cole, Bexhill.
7548	Child's reins	President, E. T. H., Edmonton.
8147	Shopping basket	Mrs. Turner, Chorley.
4345	Tea tray	Mrs. Squire, Fotheringhay.
3131	String bag	Smith, Catford, S.E.6.
8411	String bag	Pethernish, Hove.
79	Ten shillings	Miss Whittaker, Windermere.

A Far East P.O.W. Club

Mrs. Nolan, wife of our St. Dunstaner, John Nolan, of Acton, tells us of an interesting social club which has been formed for Far East ex-prisoners of war. It holds its meetings once a month at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road, Chelsea, and it extends a warm welcome to any Far East ex-prisoner. Mrs. Nolan says she and John had a most enjoyable evening on their first visit and they have since attended another social which they enjoyed even more.

The Committee is anxious to increase its membership and John wonders if any St. Dunstaners who were Far East prisoners would care to come along. The Club is called the Far East P.O.W. Social Club, and the Hon. Secretary's address is 18 George Lane, South Woodford, E.18. The next meeting is on October 21st.

Ideas Rewarded

J. Banks and E. R. Jensen, both of whom are employed by Messrs. Hoovers, of Perivale, have received monetary awards for suggestions made by them to increase output.

J. Banks suggested a new type of glove for protecting the hands from the sharp edges of metal, and also a special bin device which has resulted in the saving of a considerable amount of oil.

E. R. Jensen suggested a special adaptor to be fitted to his ratchet screwdriver. This was adopted and resulted in a 30 per cent. saving of time. On another job he suggested a foot lever instead of a hand operation; this leaves him with both hands free, thus increasing output.

Freemasonry

A. A. Biggs, of Barnet, has been installed as the Worshipful Master for the second year of the Star of Friendship Lodge 6496.

Talking Book Library

The Talking Book Library Committee has reluctantly come to the decision that no more new readers can be admitted to the Library for the time being owing to the shortage of recorded books.

As a result of the musicians' strike in the United States, which has lasted many months, the gramophone companies have stopped pressing records and have been unable to press the odd records which we need to replace broken records. In addition to this, the Decca Company, one of our suppliers in England, have been changing over to a new process and they have been two years behindhand in making up broken records. The result is that for the time being the Library is very short of books.

Additions to the Library in September

Three books slipped off the assembly lines last month to take their place in the Library, and, it is hoped, make occasional journeys up and down the country.

First on the list comes W. Macqueen Pope's "Carriages at Eleven," read very pleasantly by Robert Gladwell. Edwardian theatre, from a keen lover of the stage and all playgoers, is both entertaining and instructive; let the not-so-young theatre fans enjoy nostalgic memories amidst the London theatres, 1897-1918. The children's trip to the pantomime is worth reading several times. Although I particularly recommend it to those who may recall some parts of the dazzling shows described, yet all theatre fans can't miss with this book. This is the only one of the month at 33 speed and the recording is good.

Secondly, a book by Julian Symons, a thriller called, "A Man called Jones," read by F. P. Bayley. It is probably read quite well but the reader's precise manner of enunciation can become quite a trifle irritating. However, the book itself, despite three incidents of homicide, is a hum-drum affair hinging on an advertising agent, Edward Hargreaves, his gloomy past, and his two sons, Lionel and Richard. Inspector Bland lives up to his name and a chorus girl provides "love interest." Maybe I've said too much, but that hasn't given any of the story away so there is no harm done. To me the keynote of the book seems to be a subtle all-round unpleasantness, but with the author's ingenuity and complete lack of padding, the reading should be enjoyable.

Last and sweetest is "Eve's Apples," a between-the-wars novel by H. A. Vachell, read by F. P. Bayley. A pleasant story, not too long and written by a master of character production. It is refreshing to hear an author so good and kindly as Vachell, who takes care to show only the better self of his characters and allows no real wickedness to creep in, only minor foibles which can be good-humouredly shrugged away. The story is of a grass widow and her daughter, Eve, and further elucidation would bring the whole book tumbling about my head. The writer does far better than I ever could. Best leave it to him and, if you are curious, to you.

NELSON.

From the Chairman's Post-Bag

"I hear from an article by you in the Sunday press of the mental strain in matters like shaving, in that every movement has to be carefully thought out. All this is perfectly true and I know very well from experience. Have you tried an electric razor? My son gave me one a few years ago and I have used it with great comfort since. I use no soap, water or brush. The razor is plugged into the light over my bed-head. I have only to reach for the razor, switch on and sit up in bed and shave. You cannot get it quite as close as with an ordinary razor but quite close enough not to show. But they are in short supply and are expensive."

J. R. RICHARDSON, Cranford.

Sir Ian replies:

"I have tried one or two types of electric razors during the past few years and do not personally like them. No doubt it is only a fad but the noise irritates me and I do not feel that the shave is as clean as the good old cut-throat which I have used all my life, and still use."

Presentation

New war physiotherapists who had received their preliminary training from him, first at Church Stretton and later at Ovingdean, presented N. McLeod Steel, at the recent Physiotherapy Conference with a cheque as a token of their affection and regard and in gratitude for his skilful professional training and his personal help and friendship. The presentation was made on behalf of his colleagues by E. R. Ettridge.

The Muffled Drums' Reunion

We all arrived within an hour or so of each other at West House for the much awaited Reunion for the deaf men. There was much to say to each other and much grasping for somebody else's hands, and so many things had to be said several times. There was our colonel with his pipe, of course (Jordan), and the evening soon slipped away.

On Saturday morning we took a walk along the promenade in midsummer-like weather, on to the Palace Pier; talking to us the V.A.D. walked into the bar by accident so we decided to buy something!

After lunch Sir Ian and Lady Fraser met us all in the quiet lounge. Sir Ian said how pleased he was to be with his deaf comrades and after a short discussion upon our difficulties, we all sat down to a very enjoyable tea which Matron had prepared for us, and after which Jordan passed a vote of thanks to Sir Ian for coming along, which was seconded by W. Bedford.

We were now joined by a party of sighted deaf people who had come along to meet us and a darts match was arranged. Two games were played, we winning one each, and then we sat down to supper. After that we played dominoes and following that, our sighted friends took us over to the "Barley Mow" to finish the night off.

After strolls the next morning, we all drove to Bramber in the afternoon where we took tea, and after supper we all went off to the pier and finished up in the bar!

On Monday we went to Ovingdean where Matron Pain was awaiting us. We met Commandant Fawcett and Mr. Mackay here; we toured the workshops and met the new boys, then we all gathered again for lunch and you should have heard those muffled drums when it was known Mr. Banks was joining us too!

During the lunch there was much to talk about, and after it speeches were made by everybody there. Jordan again passed a vote of thanks to Matron Pain, Williams seconded it, and following this, we drove to Alfriston for tea, this time accompanied by Ovingdean V.A.D.s. Later we drove out to Hurstpierpoint where we sat down to dinner with Commandant Fawcett, Mr. Banks and our escort-interpreter V.A.D.s. This being the last event, I can tell you it went off with a real bang! Those muffled drums did *roll*!

All too soon Tuesday morning came and we had to drag ourselves away from each other and our friends, but by this time the staff was suffering from dislocated fingers and had become almost speechless!

Many thanks indeed to those—officials, staff and St. Dunstaners—who helped to make this first reunion of the muffled drums such a great success.

GEO. FALLOWFIELD.

Love on a Roller

It is generally known that during the days of captivity in Germany, a Braille School was organised by Lord Normanby, with the help of other teachers. In addition to braille lessons, other subjects were taught, such as economics, book-keeping, geography, etc.

Now the Braille Room as I remember it had two long and fairly wide tables, which could accommodate two "Kepel" typewriters back-to-back (the latter having been acquired from the Germans by means of Normanby "strings.")

So it was that two boys one day sat down opposite each other to type, one to do his geography homework, the other to write to his fiancée. These two were the sole occupants of the Braille Room, and for some time hit the rollers accordingly. Fred, however, who was doing his geography, decided to call it a day; he whipped the paper from the machine and strolled out, leaving Bert with his inspirations.

Bert went on typing for some time. Then into the room came an orderly. "What are you doing?" he asked Bert. Bert replied "Writing home to the girl friend." "But," said the orderly, "you haven't any paper in the machine." But there in the other machine was Fred's geographical paper. Bert had been typing on his roller since Fred left the room.

It was suggested that Bert should send the roller home to his fiancée.

L. W. C.

The Braille Evangel

A new religious braille magazine is available to braille readers free of charge. It is published monthly and those interested should write to *The Braille Evangel*, Box 6001, Seminary Hill Station, Fort Worth, 10, Texas, U.S.A. if they wish their name to be placed on the mailing list.

West House Notes

Perhaps it was the contrast after the hustle and bustle of August and the holiday season in full swing that made September seem rather quiet at West House.

On Sunday, the 5th, we were entertained in the Lounge at coffee time by Rees Warren, who gave us a grand conjuring performance. He seemed to have a never-ending supply of silk hankies which appeared from a magic "empty" silver box and he baffled us all with his card and rope tricks.

The following Sunday started the Battle of Britain Week and all that week there were concerts, dances and shows, ending with a Festival and Service at the Dome on Sunday, the 19th, when West House was represented by a party of sixty.

The last Brighton Race Meetings were on the 15th and 16th and were well supported by West House enthusiasts.

The British Legion entertained us on the 12th, 23rd, and 25th; these were "social" evenings with darts, cards, dominoes, sing-songs, and lots to eat and drink.

There have been the usual round of dominoes and darts and, when the weather permitted, cruises were the order of the day, either for a couple of hours into the Channel, or for the "old salts," day trips to Eastbourne and Hastings.

September 24th was a red-letter day at West House for it was the first day of the Deaf-Blind Reunion and we were all delighted to be able to welcome the boys. They put new life into us and made us all feel twenty years younger with their cheerfulness and fun. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser joined the party on the 25th for a chat with the men and tea.

Test Results for September

Senior

J. W. Cookson, A. J. Woollen, J. Walch

Advanced

A. J. Woollen, S. Edgar, A. Rees.

Typing

R. Glover, C. Lightfoot, J. E. Brown.

Preliminary, E. Hailes (Australian).

Writing, A. Pollitt.

★ ★ ★

At the Eccles (Manchester) Agricultural Show on August 28th, fourteen St. Dunstaners, escorted by their wives, were specially invited to form a guard of honour to greet the President, Lord Derby, on his arrival to open the Show.

Jock Thanks the Busmen

From the London "Star," Saturday, October 2nd:

"The busmen of Route 23 (Marylebone to Becontree Heath) have received a letter of thanks from war-blinded Mr. Jock Macfarlane, who travels daily from his home at Faircross, Barking, to his City office in Lombard Street. He has written to London Transport saying that the conductors and drivers "have made my task of trying to be an independent citizen a lot easier."

Jock is with a Government Department and this year completes his twenty-fifth year there, and his twenty-seventh in the City. But he doesn't claim this as a record. He thinks this is held by Sammy Webster, who has been thirty years with his firm.

Who?

Who makes all those baskets,
Those rugs and those trays?

Who trains the blind men to work the
capstan lathe?

And where do they learn that good work-
manship pays?

St. Dunstan's, the talk of the world!

Some are taught poultry and gardening as
well,

And all of them typing and braille,

And where do they teach them to do it so
well?

St. Dunstan's, the talk of the world!

Some operate a switchboard—

Even massage, too.

And to teach them assembly must be a
sticky to-do.

But where do they teach them?

Can you give me a clue?

St. Dunstan's, the talk of the world!

This fine institution

Is equalled by none.

For trades and professions they teach a
thousand and one.

At last I am satisfied,

For I know where it's done.

St. Dunstan's, the talk of the world.

W. THOMAS.

Saltdean.

Ovingdean Notes

We returned to Ovingdean on August 31st, after four weeks' holiday, to welcome nineteen new Australian trainees (amongst whom is David Beattie) who had been fortunate to arrive during the all too brief heat wave at the very end of last term. They spent the "summer" holiday at Belmont, where they were royally entertained by Miss Wilshin and Commander Roney.

The first of the autumn lectures was given by Mr. Metcalf, a blind solicitor, on September 8th, whose subject was "The work of the National Federation for the Blind." It was most interesting to learn from him what is being done in the civilian blind world. On September 16th, Mr. Barrett of the Central Office of Information, gave an enjoyable talk on "Gambia," and on the 30th, Captain Laycock handled the very difficult subject, "The Marshall Plan"—(European Recovery), in an excellent way and made it very easy to follow the intricacies of foreign exchange.

The Stag Party given by the N.F.S. College at Saltdean started the ball rolling for the term's entertainment; this was, as usual, a huge success and very much enjoyed.

On September 20th, the usual Monday night dance was transferred to the Lounge and turned into a "special" evening. On behalf of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund and Association, Air Commodore Dacre accepted £260, which was the proceeds of the Concert held last term, and the sale of Raffle tickets, from Miss Carlton and Ted Penny. "Dickie" Richardson drew the prize numbers for the Raffle, amongst which was his own, and he has been protesting since that there was no deception at all!

A very delightful Social Evening was given by the Red Courts County Club, Seaford, on September 24th. Several trainees assisted in the entertainment of the Club Members. Ron Vincent sang, Ron Smith amused the audience with a fund of tales and monologues, and Alby Ryan did a tap dance. A vote of thanks was given by "Tony" Smith, an old war St. Dunstaner, who lives in Saltdean.

Children's Encyclopaedia Wanted

The Editor has recently received two requests for copies of the *Children's Encyclopaedia*. If any St. Dunstaner has one to sell, will he please get in touch with us.

News of St. Dunstaners

W. Thornton, of Birmingham, was the author of an article on blindness in the *Lancet*, which was one of a series on "Disabilities." The intention of the series has been to set out the difficulties with which handicapped persons are faced, and to explain how these have been tackled and overcome.

Walter Thornton is a Welfare Officer at Cadbury Bros., and is also secretary of the Youths' Committee. He was in camp this summer with 150 boys from Bournville. While he was there he received a cheque for £1,000 from Mr. C. W. Gillett, a director, which is part of a fund to be spent on an interchange of visits between Bournville boys and girls and young people from other countries. This fund is to be the memorial to young employees of the company who lost their lives in World War II.

★ ★ ★

T. Barton, of Scalby, is doing well with his kennels. One of his young bitches, "Linda of Long Mynd," who at eight months already holds eight other prizes, won both the Cocker Novices' Cup and the Cup for the Best Puppy bred by an Exhibitor at the Scarborough Canine Show on September 25th.

★ ★ ★

Howard Simcocks, who is now an advocate in the Isle of Man, has conducted his first case, and won it.

★ ★ ★

W. Robbins, of Bournemouth, entered one of his baskets in the National Eisteddfod of Wales, at Bridgend, which gained him a "Commended" in his class.

★ ★ ★

T. Bowen of Llanelly, still keeps canaries which have won several prizes in shows; he also sells them and gets a great deal of pleasure from his hobby.

★ ★ ★

G. H. Gilpin, of Thorverton, has been enjoying his son's company on holiday, and some pleasant trips to the sea. He has just had another grandchild—a daughter has been born to his daughter.

★ ★ ★

F. Mowtell, of Cramlington, had a handsome photograph in the *Blyth News*. He has just been let a house on a new hostel estate. He is a keen Salvationist. He joined the Salvation Army twenty years ago and has travelled all over the north to conduct services.

The Irish Reunions

Three most enjoyable meetings took place at Cork, Dublin and Belfast on October 5th, 7th and 8th.

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Alderman G. F. Brewitt) was waiting to welcome the guests at Cork, and at Dublin, the Lord Mayor, Councillor J. Breen, Mr. Oliver Humphreys, the Area Chairman of the British Legion and the Area Secretary, Mr. M. J. O'Brien, were present to greet and address the men.

Those who attended the Dublin Reunion were delighted to meet Mrs. Strain, who is known and loved by them all.

Mr. William Grant, M.P., M. O. H. in the Northern Ireland Government, made a very happy speech at Belfast, and here the British Legion representative was the Chairman of the Northern Area, Captain Bennett.

Those who were present were very glad indeed to see that Mr. Macauley had made such a good recovery from his illness. He and Mr. Mackay, Welfare Superintendent, were present at all three of these friendly, happy meetings.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Francis Ashall (Billinge) on March 27th to Miss Elizabeth Lamb.

Robert McFarlane (Barnhill) on August 7th to Miss Mildred Grant.

Cyril Arthur Matthews (Maidenhead) on August 2nd to Miss Eileen Lambourne.

Margaret Lowings (Chandlers Ford) on September 11th to Mr. J. Frampton.

Kathleen Triggs, Ashford, to Mr. Cyril Martin, on August 14th.

Walter Stamp, Keely, on July 10th, to Miss Joyce Oliver.

Eric Guiseley, on July 3rd, to Miss Edith Vaughan-Bentley.

A Visitor from Australia

A welcome visitor to Headquarters recently was Mrs. Leonard Fry, of Ormond, Victoria, Australia, who is in this country for six months for health reasons. She hopes shortly to go down to Brighton to meet our Australian friends, one of whom at least she knows personally. She also intends to go to West House so that she may take back first-hand news to her husband about the old place.

Great-Grandfather

A. Morris, Pontypridd, for the eighth time.

Gardening

T. Batt, of Oakhill, near Bath, won first prize for a vase of cut flowers, and second prize for a flowering pot plant at the Bristol Guild of Blind Gardeners' competition, and in the Somerset County Association for the Blind contest, tied with another man for first prize in the Vegetable Garden class.

★ ★ ★

E. D. Evans, of Carmarthen, exhibited at this year's Carmarthen Horticultural Society's Show and gained four seconds and two thirds.

★ ★ ★

H. R. Potter, of Hastings, had a nice tribute paid to his garden in the local paper. It said: "He has a row of garden peas 7ft. 6in. high—in fact, his whole garden is outstanding."

Placements

G. Allen, as a trader on the Fish Dock at Hull; J. Bailey, on inspection work with Dennis Motors, Ltd., Guildford; R. G. Cameron, Forest Gate, as a shop-keeper; Alan Moore, as telephone operator with Messrs. Schweppes, of Hendon; C. Pilgrim, Hounslow, as a shop-keeper.

Remembrance Day, 1948

*And some there be that have no memorial
No gilt inscription on a scroll of fame
Or sounding voluntary; unassuming men
Who, laying aside their torch's dying flame,
Were borne away to a world of greater light
Where broken limbs and blindness are unknown.
Each quiet grave reveals a living friend
For ever faithful in the eternal home.*

*In this most sacred hour, would I could pray
More fervent than this feeble heart allow.
So deeply is emotion welling forth
With every heartbeat, that the tears must flow
Despite my will . . . My very soul is stirred
And I must weep, because I loved them so;
Because my heart o'erflows with memories
Of all the pain that they did undergo.*

*Pray on, frail heart, beyond the finite fields
Of human thought, where heaven lies far out-
spread;
Ere this brief silence break I would be deep
In spiritual communion with the dead.
My heart shall beat, and beat like a thund'rous
drum
Calling the dead to life . . . those men I love . . .
Until their sacrificial presence come
To sweeten life and sanctify resolve.*

R. J. V.

“ In Memory ”

Pioneer Stanley Burdis, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of S. Burdis, of Adwick, near Doncaster.

He served with his regiment from November, 1915, and was wounded at La Basse in 1916; his sight gradually failed and he came to us six years later. Unfortunately, his health was very poor as a result of his injuries, but he took up mat making after he had tried a little poultry-farming. Of recent years heavy work had been out of the question but he took a job at the Ministry of Supply during the war years, anxious to do his bit.

Since the beginning of the year his health grew worse. He went to West House, but had a great desire to return home. This he did just a few days before his death on September 19th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was sent for the funeral.

He leaves a widow and five children, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Thomas Thorpe, *King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. Thorpe, of Torrisholme, at the age of seventy-one.

This fine old soldier enlisted in November, 1895; he joined up again in 1914 and almost immediately went to France where he was blinded at Ypres. At St. Dunstan's the same year, he trained as a poultry farmer and mat maker, and he went on with mat making until 1941, when his age and health forced him to retire. He and Mrs. Thorpe celebrated their golden wedding ten months ago.

He was a keen member of the British Legion and of the Jubilee Club, Torrisholme.

Among the wreaths was one from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends, and another from the Morecambe Branch of the Legion.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and grown-up family, one of whom herself married a St. Dunstaner, W. Allen, of Torrisholme.

Edward Wilkinson

We have heard with deep regret that Edward Wilkinson, of Granville, New South Wales, Australia, died on August 13th after a long illness.

He was a St. Dunstaner of the recent war, but did not come to us for training. He kept in touch with us, however, and much appreciated the friendly messages of goodwill.

Leading Stoker Eric Jones, *Royal Navy*

With deepest regret we record the death at Ovingdean of Eric Jones, a lad who came to us in January of this year, but whose health did not allow him to undertake any training. He died very suddenly on September 13th. He was buried at his home at Paignton, Devon.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his parents.

Births

COWING.—On September 20th, to the wife of W. H. Cowing, of Plumstead, a son—Paul James.

HARLEY.—On September 16th, to the wife of F. P. Harley, of Wimblington, a son—Michael Philip.

PARMENTER.—On August 30th, to the wife of D. Parmenter, of Fleet, a second daughter—Suzanne Anita.

Deaths

We offer our sincere sympathy to the following:—

O'BRIEN.—To J. O'Brien, of Aintree, Liverpool, whose wife passed away on September 20th.

PEASE.—To J. R. Pease, of Pudsey, whose mother, who was known to many St. Dunstaners, died on September 20th.

Marriage

WIGGLESWORTH—HUNT.—On August 3rd, A. Wigglesworth, of Rotherham, to Miss Ivy Eileen Hunt.

Thoughts

Two of many thoughts that arose in the mind of a blinded Australian prisoner of war whilst serving a solitary confinement sentence in the notorious Outram Road Gaol, Singapore, during the Japanese occupation of Malaya.

*It matters not who welds the chain
There must always be a weakest link
To denote both strength and breaking strain
So in this life, when you're on the brink
Of madness, through tragedy, love or pain
Ensure that by far the strongest link
Is the one connecting heart and brain.*

*Sapphires, rubies and things of worth
Are all to be had if wealth suffice
But friendship is the richest thing on earth
Yet strangely enough it has no price
And within reach of all, irrespective of birth
The mother of friendship is self-sacrifice.*

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith, Golcar, October 16th.

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WAR PENSIONS

The Campaign Continues

SPEAKING at the London Reunion of St. Dunstan's men at the Seymour Hall on Monday, November 8th, Sir Ian Fraser said:

"The national War Pensions campaign, initiated by the British Legion and supported by ex-Servicemen's and women's societies, including St. Dunstan's, will continue. These societies have always been, and are now, strictly non-political and they have no motive whatever except to bring their demand for a Select Committee to enquire into War Pensions to a successful conclusion.

"That campaign started at the Legion Conference last Whitsun when some 2,000 delegates from all parts of the country decided that we press the question of increasing the basic pension.

"The war-time coalition government took a very important step forward in giving a claimant for a pension the benefit of the doubt and placing the onus of proof to a large extent upon the Ministry, instead of upon the unfortunate individual. They also introduced the unemployability allowance which, though it benefited only a few disabled men, was greatly appreciated.

"The present Government has introduced valuable reforms, including, in particular, the marriage allowance for all disabled persons, and a substantial increase in the unemployability, the attendance and the hardship allowance. St. Dunstaners are amongst those who have benefited considerably from these improvements and we express our thanks.

"Nevertheless we demand a Select Committee to hear our case because even now the majority of the totally disabled are unemployable and even with their full pension and allowances, all but a handful receive substantially less than the average wage of to-day, and because 650,000 partial pensioners are being compensated at rates scarcely higher than those which were fixed thirty years ago. It is not fair to accuse the Legion of party politics because the Government has refused the Select Committee. If the doctrine is accepted that any organisation which presses a claim against any government is playing party politics, the only way out is for all organisations of citizens to be controlled or to remain dumb. This is not the method which appeals to free Britons. (Applause).

"Public opinion is mounting in our favour. The newspapers are friendly. Many M.P.s of all parties are committed to our support. Many others want to support us. Now is the very moment when we must not get cold feet but must go on. It is not our fault if some M.P.s are in a jam and try to create party prejudice. Governments have been known before to change their minds, as for example, when we forced the war-time coalition to introduce valuable reforms; and it may well happen again if we have faith and courage. ('Hear, Hear!'). If we quit now because we are afraid of the crack of a whip or because we do not feel strong enough to meet criticism, we shall be letting our comrades down.

"This is a movement of the Legion and of ex-Service people and of no-one else. I appeal to every disabled ex-Serviceman—and there are 750,000 of them—to join the Legion."

The London Reunion

November 8th and the Seymour Hall, familiar voices and friendly greetings, good things to eat and drink—in fact, all the ingredients for a St. Dunstan's reunion.

Sir Neville Pearson, our President, took advantage of the first interval to welcome the guests. St. Dunstan's Reunions, he said, were always grand affairs. That was one of the best things about St. Dunstan's. Nice things were always happening. Sir Neville went on: "Sometimes we think of our organisation as a whole, and sometimes it has a personal nature, and I could not help thinking of the personal side last Saturday when I was the Chairman's guest at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. It was a fine thing to hear him reading those words which have stirred our emotions for the past twenty-five years and will continue to do so for a great many years to come. . . . 'We will remember them.'"

With them tonight, said Sir Neville, were Lady Pearson, Lady Fraser, Colonel Eric Ball, and many other old friends who were meeting each other again, and he wished everyone a merry evening and a very happy Christmas.

When the applause had died down, Sir Ian rose to speak. He referred first to the British Legion pensions campaign and this is reported fully on page 1 of this REVIEW. Sir Ian went on: "Some two years ago, in this building, Mr. Churchill was good enough to present me with a cheque on your behalf and I told you that it would be devoted to buying some silver. Since then my wife and daughter have said that they wanted a portrait of me also—goodness known why! (Laughter). Well, they have got it, and I hope they like it, and since you gave it to me, I thought that you would like to see it and your wives to tell you about it. I want to say to you and to all other St. Dunstaners, 'Thank you very much indeed for your gift, of which this portrait is the token.'"

Then dancing began again to the music of the band of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues); and those who did not dance made their way round the hall (or to the bar) to meet old friends while others went to the end of the hall where Sir Ian's portrait, by Mr. E. B. Seago, R.B.A., was on view.

The Chairman's and Appeals Offices Move

As foreshadowed in the REVIEW some months ago, the Chairman's and Appeals Offices, including the Publicity Department, have now been transferred from 9-11 Park Crescent to 1 South Audley Street, W.1. All correspondence for the Chairman, Appeals and Publicity Departments, including letters for the Editor of ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW and NUGGETS, should from now on be sent to 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. (Telephone: Grosvenor 4946). The Council and Committee Board Rooms are also housed in this building.

No. 8 Park Crescent remains as a hostel for the time being for St. Dunstaners passing through London and No. 12 Park Crescent as a hostel for physiotherapy students.

★ ★ ★

With the closing down of 9-11 Park Crescent, we lose the services of Mrs. F. M. Kemp, who for twenty-four years has been manageress of St. Dunstan's Canteen and who now retires. Members of the staff at Park Crescent and at 191 Marylebone Road, as well as a number of St. Dunstaners who had often used the Canteen, expressed their great appreciation of Mrs. Kemp's long service by a presentation, and many other St. Dunstaners in all parts of the country who have lunched from time to time in the Canteen on their way through London will join with us in sending her our thanks for her very efficient and devoted service in the past and our good wishes to her for the future.

Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson

The Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson will be held in the Chapel of the Ovingdean Home at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, December 5th.

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, a deputation of St. Dunstaners will proceed to Hampstead Cemetery from Headquarters to place a wreath upon Sir Arthur's grave. Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew at Headquarters.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. F. Berisford, Stoke-on-Trent, August 25th; Mr. and Mrs. K. Howes, Montrose, September 19th. Congratulations.

Talking Book Library

The October Crop of Books

This month three more books have come into circulation. The romantically inclined have little to please them in this batch, which consists of one travel, "Leaves in the Wind," one biography, "John Hilton," and one book of short stories, "First Love and other Stories."

"Leaves in the Wind," by Henry Baerlein, read by Alvar Liddell, is well recorded and pleasantly read. As the name suggests, the author is one of the leaves and, unless I skipped some pages, the wind took him anywhere between Mexico and Eastern Europe in what seems to be a rather frolicsome spirit. The author's anecdotes are witty and gay and my only criticism is that of the lay mind as opposed to the literary mind—there are too many quotations. Apt, maybe, but apt to be tiring.

"John Hilton," by Edna Nixon, read by Duncan Carse, is well read and recorded, and I judge it to be a fine biography, which is high praise, since I find generally that such affairs are too long. Of course, the name was a household word before and during the war. He was a Bolton man and the only thing he didn't do was to play for the Wanderers. It is a story of a wise and sympathetic heart and it serves to renew one's ideals.

"First Love and other Stories," by Viola Meynell, read by Richard Wessell, is well read and recorded, but the Talking Book is a bad medium for such a collection. The average reader would not sit down and wade through any old cartload of short stories. On records, the only chance of selection is for the reader to know that the yarn he wants begins on the 77th groove of Side 7, otherwise plough on. Some of the stories are good, but, if I remember rightly, the majority leave one in mid-air. Whatever you do—don't attempt to read the book straight through. The author wouldn't like it!!

Tune in to 33 for the best results.

NELSON.

For Sale

TWIN PRAM, as good as new but for a little chromium. £9. Cost double. J. Lee, 45 Jackson Avenue, Gledhow, Leeds.

Truro Reunion

The last Reunion of the year took place at Truro on October 29th, when St. Dunstaners from Devon and Cornwall met at the Red Lion Hotel.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser had intended to be present, but urgent pensions matters at the House of Commons prevented this and Mr. Percy Barton, Chairman of the Cornwall British Legion, deputed for Sir Ian. Mr. D. W. Ferguson was also present, representing Headquarters.

A message of greetings and thanks to Sir Ian for all he was doing for St. Dunstan's and the ex-Service community was sent from the meeting.

Masonic

Will any St. Dunstaner who is a member of the Masonic Craft please communicate with the Industrial Department, St. Dunstan's, 191 Marylebone Road, W.1, putting "Mason" in the bottom left-hand corner of the envelope.

R.A.O.B.

After nineteen years as a member of the R.A.O.B., R. K. Lowrie, of Portslade, was raised on November 8th to the Third Degree, Knight Order of Merit.

★ ★ ★

Bro. S. C. Loram, I.P.P.C.P., presided at the Silver Jubilee Dinner of the Brixham, Dartmouth and South Hams Provincial Grand Lodge. He has been a Buffalo for twenty-nine years.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," November, 1918:

"Though the actual details of Peace will not be complete for some time to come, the signing of the Armistice and the cessation of hostilities mean the end of the terrific struggle in which you men of St. Dunstan's have played so tremendous a part.

"To the men who have left St. Dunstan's, the men who are still here, and the men who are yet to come, I say: "Stick to your guns, hang on to your defences; repulse this spiritual foe when he attacks with gloom and misgivings; attack him with persistent courage and cheerful determination, and 'down him' as you and those who fought with you 'downed' the physical foe whom you have vanquished. . . . Carry our banner high."

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON.

London Club Notes

The Club Committee was very encouraged at the successful Dance held at the Great Cumberland Hall, Bryanston Street, Marble Arch, when approximately two hundred people had a most enjoyable evening dancing to Ernie Cookson's band. The present proposal is to run another similar function at the same place on Thursday, December 16th.

A very happy and successful evening was held in the Club rooms on Monday, October 18th, when a show in the magic arts was put on by St. Dunstaners who are members of the Institute of Magicians. This event marked their first anniversary into the Institute.

It is not practicable at this present time to run a small gym at Headquarters. However, members who are anxious to enjoy this form of exercise are cordially invited to attend a fully-equipped gymnasium at 240 Great Portland Street, on Tuesday evenings from 5.30 until 6.30.

We have been very successful in obtaining quotas of cigarettes from leading manufacturers and these are now on sale in the Club.

There will be a General Meeting of St. Dunstaners on Friday, January 7th, at Headquarters, to discuss matters appertaining to the Club and to go into the question of the election of a certain percentage of new members to the Club Committee.

Other News

E. L. Bugbee, of Harefield, on November 8th unveiled the Memorial at Harefield to the men who lost their lives in the 1939-45 war. He had known most of them personally.

The ceremony was broadcast on Radio Normandie after the broadcast of the ceremony at the Cenotaph.

★ ★ ★

R. Paterson, of Thirsk, was pictured with his guide dog in a most interesting general article on "Dogs for the Blind" in *The Leader* on October 16th.

★ ★ ★

J. W. Simpson, of Leeds, plays in the dominoes tournaments at the British Legion Club in which Ernest Russell takes such a prominent part. Simpson made a presentation to the 1st West York. Memorial Fund on October 30th at Fulford Barracks when the Club was entertained there.

Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been very glad to notice in recent numbers of our magazine that space has been devoted to deaf St. Dunstaners and their particular additional difficulties, and particularly glad that this indicates that greater efforts are being made to help them to face up to and solve these difficulties. It is to be hoped that all St. Dunstaners fortunate still to possess good hearing will respond to our Chairman's appeal to us to learn the manual alphabet and in this connection we have a good example set by our President, Sir Neville, who was recently described to me by a deaf St. Dunstaner as "the best hand talker I have met."

I have noticed on dominoes nights at West House that when a deaf St. Dunstaner is among a table of four players, he is usually only told the ends when it is his turn to play, which puts him at a disadvantage because he does not know what the other three players have laid, and so he cannot keep a check on the numbers still to come, or know who, if any, has "knocked," and so he cannot make the best use of his own dominoes. I have discussed this disadvantage with one or two of our deaf comrades and there is a feeling that this difficulty could be overcome by the deaf player being allowed to feel the ends after each dominoe has been laid, thus obtaining as much information upon the progress of the game as do the players with good hearing; and it is claimed that this would not delay the game in any way, in fact, rather the reverse, as by keeping in touch with every move, the deaf player would be able to decide more quickly what he himself ought to play when his turn came. I have no doubt that some other deaf St. Dunstaners may have different ideas of solving this particular problem, and may like to express their views, but whether or not this idea which I have passed on be decided upon, there seems no reason why something should not be settled to even up the game for the deaf player, so that it could be crystallised into a definite rule, and all markers at dominoes tables advised accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Teignmouth

THOMAS FLOYD.

(Other letters on page 6).

West House Notes

The most outstanding event in October was the debate held on the 17th, which proved to be a great success due to the help given by G. W. Killingbeck in forming a committee consisting of Alfred Cooke, Eddie Gray, Tommy Tuxford and George Taylor. After the proposer and opposer had spoken for seven minutes each and the seconders had had their say, the time-keeper, Mr. Webster, gave a warning buzz and the debate was thrown open. "That horse-racing should be abolished" was the subject under discussion and this, of course, was rather tricky for the racing fans at West House. Feelings ran rather high at times, which made for a riotous, but most enjoyable, session. Needless to say, the motion was defeated, the result being two for and twelve against.

On the 2nd, we were all very pleased to welcome members of the Toc H Club to an enjoyable domino evening. We were so glad that Harry Russell was well enough to get up for the game and even more delighted that he carried off a prize.

Mr. Bee Mason paid us a visit on the 3rd, and told us about his thrilling experiences in Bolivia.

During the month we had our usual whist and domino drives. One of the most enjoyable of these was on the 7th, when our friends from Bexhill, with their organiser, Miss Osborne, came over for a whist drive. The ladies' prize went to the Misses Hemmings and Osborne, and the gentlemen's to Percy Bolton and Tommy Tuxford.

Although very late in the season, on the 8th we were able to have a coach ride out to Poynings, where in the lovely autumn sunshine, a Treasure Hunt took place. Much excitement was caused in the village and some of the inhabitants must have been rather dumbfounded when they were asked for such things as rabbits' tails, old boots, the name of the oldest inhabitant, etc. However, no doubt they enjoyed it as much as the fifty-nine who actually took part. A. Cartwright and Mrs. Payne were the clever pair who managed to produce ten out of the twelve articles asked for.

Our most popular outings this year were those to Barcombe Mills, and we made one or two more farewell appearances there in October. These outings give unlimited scope to the boys, being reminiscent of boating on the Regent's Park lake in the

old days. Miss Shee is always the life and soul of the party, causing much mirth paddling her own canoe in her own way with improvised oars.

We were very glad to have Canon Speight with us again when he conducted the Chapel Service on Sunday, the 10th.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service, which was held on Sunday, October 3rd, was so well attended that quite a number had to be content with sitting in the Chapel yard. We had many wonderful gifts and as there was a surplus after distributing to the Sick Ward, it was agreed by the men that the retired Nursing Sisters at the Howard Cottages should have their share of the good things. One of the visitors likened the effect of the colours in the Chapel to a beautiful oil painting. Orderly Howe and Miss Winder, with the help of Mrs. Field, Miss Pooley and H. Clevitt, were responsible for the decorating.

Sir Neville Pearson came down to read the Lesson, and this was a great pleasure to the men as he and Lady Pearson spoke to all the permanents and holiday men individually, and Sir Neville met many old friends.

National Laying Test

Final Result

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Fisher, T. M. ...	1202
2	Chaffin, Albert ...	1170
3	Clarke, T. ...	1163
4	Woodcock, W. J. ...	1132
5	Jackson, G. C. ...	1097
6	Holmes, Percy ...	1053
7	MacIntosh, C. ...	986
8	Smith, W. Alan ...	679
9	Jarvis, A. ...	665
10	Gregory, T. ...	474

Prizes will be awarded as follows:—

First Position.—St. Dunstan's Cup and Cash Prize. P.A.G.B. prize of £3.—T. M. FISHER.

Second Position.—Medal and Cash Prize. Jacobs and Spearman Cup for best individual bird.—A. CHAFFIN.

Third Position.—Medal and Cash Prize. Winter Medal.—T. CLARKE.

P.A.G.B. prize of £2; W. Bradley prize of £2.—P. HOLMES.

Placements

J. Carney as a telephonist with the Empire Rubber Company (Dunstable). M. Hackett, as an assembler with Messrs. C.V.A., Ltd., Brighton.

Ovingdean Notes

The activities of the Autumn Term are once more in full swing and on Saturday, October 2nd, the Rustington Red Cross Society and British Legion invited a party of trainees to spend the afternoon and evening as their guests. When the party arrived at Rustington they were introduced to their hosts and hostesses and taken in small groups to tea at different houses in the village. After tea, they all assembled in the Village Hall where an impromptu concert was held, followed by a delicious supper.

On October 7th, Mr. Wadsworth from the Intelligence Department of the Midland Bank visited Ovingdean once more to give a most interesting lecture on "Supply and Demand." Mr. Swinton (from the Natural History Museum) came on October 21st to continue his excellent talk on "The Origin and Development of Life."

The debates organised by the Debating Society this month, "That unlimited freedom of the Press is desirable," and "That all able-bodied men should work irrespective of vested income," both called for much odd discussion and argument and helped to sharpen wits.

A monthly Rifle Shooting competition between the Blind Staff and Dormitories takes place at Ovingdean with four persons in each team. The members of the winning team each receive 5s. plus a small cup for the team, as a monthly trophy. The winning team for this month was Dormitory 5, with 10 points; Dormitory 4 (Australians) second with 9 points. In all, there are seven teams which leaves 21 matches to be fixed. The Ovingdean Rifle Team were also fortunate in winning three matches against sighted clubs. Results:

		<i>Points</i>
Oct. 12th	Newhaven Rifle Club ...	210
	Ovingdean ...	218
Oct. 19th	King's Royal Rifle Club ...	169
	Ovingdean ...	210
Oct. 26th	R.A.F. Association ...	137
	Ovingdean ...	186

The Darts players are still very keen and on Saturday, October 30th, another knock-out competition was completed with the following result:

Totally Blind:

Winner, George Tidd; Runner-up, Bill Fitzgerald.

Slight Sight:

Winner, John Wilson; Runner-up, Alf. Carpenter.

TEST RESULTS

Typing.—T. Baker (Australian), J. McGregor (Australian), A. Hartill, A. Ryan (Australian), V. Davies.

Writing.—E. Gaiger, S. Bakhradnia.

Advanced.—A. Pointon, W. Street.

Moon.—E. Oxborough.

Preliminary.—R. Green.

Senior.—D. J. McLoughlin.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I suggest that our badges should all be of the pin kind. Mine is often picked up and given me after stooping to pump up tyres, and it cannot be put into jackets that have no buttonhole nor raincoats when buttoned to the neck. One often wants the badge outside when waiting to be met by someone.

I see Jock is about to complete his 25th year with his firm. I raise my hat to him and to others. Who holds the other records? Who has kept a shop the longest, carried on at the same job such as baskets, mats, etc.?

Re electric razors. Wouldn't these be very useful to the one-armed St. Dunstaner? [*Yes, one or two of our one-armed men do use the electric razor, and one or two handleless men also.*—ED.]

I was telling a V.A.D. about a series of articles run some years ago in the *Daily Sketch* in which celebrities told of the ten things they hated most. "Now," said the V.A.D., "if the REVIEW asked our men to send along the three things they hated most, we should learn quite a lot."

[*A good idea—all hates welcomed.*—ED.]

Yours sincerely, G. FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR EDITOR,

I thought you might care to know that on October 5th, I organised a Concert at Saron Congregational Church, near Merthyr in aid of the Merthyr Tydfil and Mid-Wales Institution for the Blind. The artistes included Gwen Obern, blind soprano, Jack Lewis, blind tenor, and Reginald Foort, F.R.C.O., the celebrated B.B.C. organist.

It really was a grand evening. The church was packed and everyone thoroughly enjoyed Miss Obern's singing. I have watched her career with great interest ever since she came to you. Mr. Foort was charmed with her renderings. I wish her well and hope to engage her again in the near future.

I myself being a blind man, fully appreciate the noble work which St. Dunstan's is doing for those who have lost their sight.

Yours in the service of the blind,

A. E. FISHER, *Financial Organiser.*

St. Dunstan's Night of Magic

On Monday, October 17th, at 191 Marylebone Road, the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians held their first semi-public Concert before a crowded and enthusiastic audience.

The occasion was the celebration of the late President Zomah's inauguration of this section—just twelve months ago—and the evening was voted by artists and audience alike as an unqualified success.

The large room which serves for the weekly "instruction class in magic" was fitted with an excellent portable stage complete with stage curtains and promptly at 7.30 the curtains parted to introduce the first artist, Mr. Rees Warren—billed on the programme as The Welsh Wizard. To a fast-running accompaniment of humorous patter, the delighted audience enjoyed his offering of an empty vase being suspended by a single length of rope threaded in the neck, a very fine card trick, the secret of which the audience was blandly told was worth £1. Then a small empty metal box was demonstrated, which on command, repeatedly became full of silk handkerchiefs. Trick after trick followed. It was a first-class show, revealing great credit to Rees Warren and to his tutor, Mr. Fred Willis.

The curtains opened to introduce the next artist, Mr. C. A. Luker, pupil of lady magicienne, Ethelbertine, whose programme consisted of a number of large silk squares which mysteriously became knotted and unknotted at his will. A length of rope was shown, cut in two, and miraculously joined together without any covering. Then, six playing cards, three cards discarded, but on counting the remainder were found to number six. This was repeated four times, but although the audience was left with the impression there was a "catch" in it, just where that "catch" lay, they couldn't fathom! Another trick, another, and the curtains descended to rapturous applause.

Then "Tiny" Fleming held the audience with his splendid rendering of "Asleep in the Deep," and as an encore in response to the repeated demands of the audience, "Friend o' Mine." A welcome interlude in a magical entertainment.

The last artist to appear was Mr. A. J. Wiltshire, tutored personally by the late President Zomah of the Institute of

Magicians. Assisted by Mrs. Wiltshire, he showed two slates, front and back. With a piece of chalk he wrote a prediction on one of the slates, placed them together, and left them in full view on the table. A book of riddles was given to a member of the audience who chose one, and on asking his volunteer assistant what riddle was chosen, the magician took up the two slates which had never left the audience's view and parting them, showed, written in chalk, right across one slate, an amusing and correct answer to the riddle.

A volunteer was then invited on the platform and given a pack of cards to shuffle. From this pack the helper was asked to select and pocket any one card of his own choice. Then the magician himself selected a card from a pack he shuffled himself, and strange as it may seem, both cards when shown to the audience were exactly the same!

The reception he received showed how his offering was enjoyed.

Unfortunately "Smudger" Smith was prevented from appearing owing to the illness of his younger son.

Madame Zomah spoke from the stage, thanking the artists and the audience for a wonderful evening and tracing the history of the formation of St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians from an idea born in the brain of our late President, Zomah, to the present time.

Mr. John Bradbury, of the Institute of Magicians, ably accompanied the artists on the piano. OSCAR OSWALD, *Hon. Sec.*

Northgate House

I am just one of the hundreds who want to go back to Northgate House, for we find there a very real spirit of peace and happiness.

The children wake up with the birds and are ready to climb out from under their gay patchwork quilts the moment the rising bell goes. A little later, a troop of children, of all shapes and sizes, are making their way down to the sea.

Northgate House seems to me as if it has never belonged to anybody but the children of St. Dunstaners. They are so much a part of it. They come and they go and they give something of themselves while they are there to make the house what it is, and they take something away when they go, something I feel sure they will always treasure.

E. S.

“ In Memory ”

Private John Thomas Duffy, 12th Staffordshire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of J. T. Duffy, of Leeds.

Although his sight was damaged during his service from February, 1916, to February, 1917, he did not come to us until 1922. From the outset his health had prevented him doing heavy work, but he liked to occupy his time in light wool rug-making or netting, and until his death was sending in orders as usual. Although he was a very sick man, he had been looking forward to another visit to Blackpool, but he passed peacefully away on September 30th, fortified with the rites of the Church.

He had not been able to come to our last Reunion, but officials visited him at his home to give him a little celebration—to his great pleasure. He was 74.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was sent for the funeral.

He leaves a widow and family to whom we extend deep sympathy.

Corporal J. Marriott, Royal Engineers

It is with deep regret that we record also the death of J. Marriott, of Birmingham.

He enlisted in April, 1915, and was discharged in December, 1920, having been wounded two years before, but he did not come to us until October, 1921. He trained as a basket maker and netter; then in poultry farming on a small scale, and at one time made some interesting experiments with the extensive growing of mushrooms. For some time, however, his health has been poor, and he has spent his time with members of his family. He was taken ill and passed away in hospital after only a few days.

Among the flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends.

Our sympathy is extended to the members of his family.

Births

DALTON.—On November 11th, to the wife of J. Dalton, of Stockton-on-Tees, a son—Terence.

ELLIS.—On October 28th, to the wife of G. W. Ellis, of St. Helens, a son.

PORTAGE.—On October 20th, to the wife of J. Pottage, of Perth, Australia, a daughter.

RAHIM.—On October 16th, to the wife of A. Rahim, of Hove, a son—Alexander Graham.

SWAIN.—On October 9th, to the wife of H. Swain, of Kettering, a son.

WILSON.—On October 19th, to the wife of R. G. Wilson, of South Mimms, a daughter—Ann.

Deaths

We extend our sincere sympathy to the following:—

DOWNES.—To Drummer N. Downes, whose wife passed away on November 7th.

MECKIN.—To H. Meckin, of Workington, who lost his wife on November 4th.

MCINNES.—To D. McInnes, of Eastleigh, whose wife died suddenly on October 16th.

SHARPE.—To W. Sharpe, of Kirkstall, Leeds, and Mrs. Sharpe, who lost their daughter, Cynthia, on November 13th.

Marriage

BELL—HICKSON.—On October 11th, Sgt.-Major J. E. Bell, of Acton, to Miss Margaret Josephine Hickson.

Grandfathers

A. J. Radford, Castle Cary—two more grandchildren. His daughter, Eveline, had a son on September 19th, and Elizabeth also had a son on October 1st. A. W. Ballard Nottingham, a grandson. L. Jackson, Heswall, twin grandchildren.

Great-Grandfather

S. J. Jordan, of Luston.

Young St. Dunstaners

Michael Caldwell, Anglesey, has graduated with an Honours Degree.

Mavis Hazel has taken her L.R.A.M. for piano playing, and in the annual examinations was awarded a Certificate of Merit. She is only nineteen.

Norman Lloyd, Cardiff, has passed his Inter-B.Sc. examination and is now studying for the Finals.

Roy Appleyard has been awarded a bronze medallion for proficiency in life-saving.

Elizabeth Owen, Rhos-on-Sea, has passed her S.C.M. examination.

Marriages

Derek Arthur Blundell, on August 14th, to Beryl Gibbs.

Ronald Plunkett, St. Leonard's, to Miss Edna Walker.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 356—VOLUME XXXII

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

"THE PEOPLE," a well-known Sunday newspaper with a large circulation, gave prominence recently to an article advocating the complete merger of the principal national organisations for ex-Servicemen and women. They mentioned, for example, the British Legion, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society, the National Association for Employment of Regular Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, the British Limbless ex-Servicemen's Association, and St. Dunstan's.

If these organisations were completely merged, the article argued, much administrative expenditure would be saved.

It may be true that there is some overlapping and duplication of work amongst these organisations, but one must not overlook certain important factors which arise out of the history, the tradition, and the spirit of individual organisations. In the case of St. Dunstan's, it is certainly true that the *esprit de corps* which binds together the men and women blinded on war service under the name of St. Dunstan's is a very important source of encouragement and help to them. St. Dunstan's is so well known to Government, to Local Authorities, and to the people generally as the single organisation in this country that looks after every interest of every war-blinded service man and woman, that for all practical purposes, every case in this field needing help of any kind is referred and is exclusively dealt with by our organisation. Many of our men and women are proud to be members of the British Legion, or of the Royal Air Forces Association, or of other societies for the companionship and mutual support which they afford but for help and advice they come exclusively to us.

Blindness is a special problem; the war-blinded are a sufficiently large number to enable a powerful organisation to be their guardian and friend and yet sufficiently small to enable every individual to be dealt with as human beings. My own view is that much would be lost and little gained for the nation or for St. Dunstaners if our organisation lost its identity and was merged in any others.

A better policy, it seems to me, is the one which we follow, namely, that of co-operation and close liaison with other bodies. For example, in the field of money raising we have for years co-operated with the British Legion by abandoning our own separate Flag Day and taking a small share of Poppy Day and by virtually giving up our public appeal during the month before Remembrance Day; and in Scotland we avoid competitive appeals with Newington House, Edinburgh, the Scottish organisation for blinded ex-Service people, by a collecting agreement. To aid administrative liaison, a member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion sits on our Council and there are other ex-Service committees on which there is mutual representation.

The handicap of blindness puts us in the blind world as well as in the ex-Service world and there is a very substantial amount of co-operation between us, the National Institute

for the Blind, the National Library for the Blind, the Sir Beachcroft Towse Fund, the Wireless for the Blind Fund, and other societies. Mutual representation at Council and Committee level, co-operation in the production and conduct of Talking Books, substantial contributions to inventions and research are examples.

You cannot force amalgamation. It can only grow out of working together. I have urged closer working together at all levels and a good example of recent mutual support which I have encouraged is the coming together of ten national organisations for ex-Service men and women in support of the British Legion war pensions campaign.

We must not, however, be complacent and although I think the article in "The People" goes too far, it is vital that voluntary organisations should be efficient, should avoid unwieldy administration and should work together to a very large extent to cut out overlapping and waste.

Do not, however, let us destroy individuality, variety, special knowledge and, above all, *esprit de corps* of certain organisations like St. Dunstan's.

"Man cannot live by bread alone."

To all St. Dunstaners and friends of St. Dunstan's the world over, my wife and I send Christmas greetings, and may the peace and goodwill traditionally associated with Christmas-tide extend into the New Year to abate the strife of an uneasy world. IAN FRASER.

Headquarters Bus Stop

At the request of St. Dunstan's, the London Transport Executive and Marylebone Borough Council have agreed to a new request stop for west-bound buses for the convenience of St. Dunstaners travelling to Headquarters. The new stop is at 199/200 Marylebone Road, which is just beyond our building.

Briefly

W. A. Perring, of Melbourne, has been elected President of the Legacy Co-ordinating Council. At the Legacy conference dinner, when the new President addressed the delegates, his audience included the Premier of West Australia, Mr. McLarty.

★ ★ ★

Gwen Obern was the soloist at the Wales Festival of Remembrance at the famous Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, on November 11th. Two thousand people were present. Before the ceremony, Gwenny had tea with the Mayor and many of the Legion officials.

★ ★ ★

J. Nicol, of Hepburn-on-Tyne, laid the local wreath on Remembrance Day.

★ ★ ★

J. Wood, in open competition, won the silver cup, two first prizes, two seconds, one third, and one specially commended in the Chrysanthemum and Vegetable Class, at Grange over Sands Horticultural Show.

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Williams, of Warrington, celebrated forty years of married life on November 29th.

St. Dunstan's Club (Manchester)

The revived Club is gaining popularity and meets twice a month at the New Exchange Cafe as well as holding a Social Evening, by kind permission of the Red Cross, at their rooms at Pendleton on the second Friday in each month. We have had several enjoyable outings including one to Blackpool on November 11th, when we were Matron's guests to lunch and tea. Following a short Remembrance Service in the Lounge we challenged the residents to a Domino Tournament and much to our chagrin were soundly thrashed.

We shall be delighted to welcome any St. Dunstaner who happens to notify the Secretary, Mrs. Dunphy, The Rough, Chester Road, Mere, Nr. Knutsford, so that she can arrange about the catering.

We are considering the formation of a swimming section and shall be pleased to hear from any men who are interested.

Tandem Cycle Touring

The General Secretary of the National Cyclists' Union has offered to put St. Dunstaners who would like to go tandeming, in touch with their local clubs, with a view to touring at week-ends.

Will men in Manchester Club area who are interested please send their names to Mrs. Eaton, 1 Dunollie Road, Sale, Cheshire, and in the Birmingham Club area to Mrs. Spurway, Holmwood Vicarage, Dorking.

The Navy and St. Dunstan's

Each year, for the last three years, some fifty St. Dunstaners have been the guests of the Royal Navy at Lee-on-Solent for a week of unequalled hospitality and generous entertainment. These camps have been those which Mrs. Avis Spurway has organised for St. Dunstaners for twenty years.

On November 17th, to mark this happy association between the Royal Navy and St. Dunstan's, the Officers, W.R.N.S. and other ranks, together with the civilian staff of H.M.S. Daedalus, presented to St. Dunstan's an airscrew from a Naval Air Arm Aircraft which had been prepared and fitted with a fine clock, the whole being mounted on a mahogany base and inscribed.

Commandant L. Fawcett, late of the Fleet Air Arm and himself the first naval organiser of these Camps, introduced his former Commanding Officer, Commodore D. M. L. Neame, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N., who, on behalf of H.M.S. Daedalus, made the presentation. Presenting the trophy, Commodore Neame told St. Dunstaners that their visit was the highlight of their summer season. "We hope this clock will never stop—it is symbolic of our friendship towards you which you know will never stop."

Replying, the President of St. Dunstan's, Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., thanked Commodore Neame and the ship's company for their gift and their hospitality. Referring to St. Dunstaners, he said he knew of no other place where there was such a perpetual feeling of cheerfulness and goodwill. There was no place which was not brightened by their presence.

Mrs. Spurway had a tremendous reception when she rose. She spoke of her great enjoyment in organising these camps and of the wonderful co-operation which she had received from the Naval authorities.

On behalf of the campers, a vote of thanks to H.M.S. Daedalus was voiced by J. Boyd.

The inscription on the clock base was:

"Presented to St. Dunstan's by the Commodore, Officers and Officials of the Civilian Staff of H.M.S. Daedalus, as a token of friendship between the two establishments, November, 1948."

Great-Grandfather

T. H. Marshall, Barbourne.

Grandfather

W. Allen, Torrisholme.

Talking Book Library

It will disappoint avid readers that last month's fog delayed the deliveries to the Library, but it need not worry anyone because the volume of recording is increasing rather than falling away. The actual delivery of books to the Library depends on the outside manufacturers and it is fair to assume that, although they do their best, they must vary in the amount of completed orders.

"The Judge's Story," by Charles Morgan read by Joseph McLeod, is the solitary addition of the month, but if quality is preferred to quantity there should be no disappointment. The Judge is retired and the story is woven around his ward, her husband and a club enemy. The author, recording and reading are first rate and there are several hours' good entertainment in the grooves of the records comprising "The Judge's Story." 33 revs. a minute suits the Judge admirably. Unfortunately, this offering is essentially pre-39 and that, in some way, makes the story less powerful than it actually is.

In conclusion, I trust that "First Nighters" will not altogether demand this yarn from the Library, but it is quite unlikely so I refuse to envisage such a happening. This book is, I believe, the pick of the last three months. Good listening!

NELSON.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," December, 1918:—

FINE WEATHER

Dear Editor, I'm feeling fine,
In fact, I'm in fine feather,
Don't think that I've been drinking wine,
It's only just fine weather.

* * *

My early spuds are going in
My violets take an outing,
And e'en my hair which was so thin,
Has lately started sprouting.

* * *

My cabbages and cauliflower
Each day are growing faster;
The passion-fruit which climbs the bower,
May yet meet with disaster.

* * *

The bees among the ti-trees roam,
E'en as on Scotia's heather,
And carry loads of honey home
Each day we have fine weather.

* * *

From Him who doth our footsteps guide,
Let us request together—
Whatever it might be outside,
Give us at heart fine weather.

THIRD RESERVE.

News from Arizona

from T. Till, of Lancaster, who flew there on October 5th.

After leaving Heath Row, we had a two hours' flight to the Shannon airport, which I thought pretty good time. After a short stay there for tea we again set off for the long hop over the Atlantic. Our destination was to have been the Ganda airport in Newfoundland, but on the way we were told to land at Stevensville, a government air base used in the war. It was evidently too rough to land at Ganda. A halt at Stevensville for breakfast, and then a 600 miles hop to New York where I had to leave my lady friend, the stewardess, and be placed in charge of a fresh lady companion. We had quite a long stay in New York, where by the way, it was blowing and raining a blizzard, and after what seemed to be a very long while we again set off on the long trail, and our next stop was Washington, D.C.

When we arrived there, the crew seemed to think there was something amiss with the engines, so the plane was run into the hangar for inspection. We all hung about the place an hour or two, during which I wondered whether to pop over to the White House and say "Howdy" to the President. Then the first part of our somewhat exciting programme began. We got away about an hour's flying time from New York when the pilot deemed it wise to return to New York as the engines were not functioning perfectly. This meant a round trip for us of about 550 miles. We reached New York again without mishap, and after a somewhat dreary stay there, we set off again in a fresh plane.

Our next stop was Memphis, in Texas, quite an important city. A stay there for eats and drinks, and away again for Dallas, in Texas. This was a very long hop across the country of the cowboys, but alas, when we neared Dallas, we were told there was a bad electric storm there and that all planes were grounded. However, we kept on our course until we were over Dallas aerodrome, where we circled around quite a lot. We tried to land, but the plane was plunging about like a bucking horse, and we just couldn't land. This meant us having to return, but after an hour or two we were wired that the storm was passing away from Dallas, so we again started in hopes of being able, this time, to effect a

landing, which we did. After that we had no further trouble and we eventually reached Phoenix, my destination.

It was a thrill, when I descended from the plane, to be hailed by my sister, who I had not seen for some fifteen years, and by my brother-in-law, who I had not seen for close on thirty years. On the whole, I quite enjoyed the trip, which was both a new experience and a thrilling adventure.

We had only one meal on the plane, which was served on a tray affixed to the seat by a very cunning device. The seats on the planes were very comfortable and well sprung and padded. For sleeping purposes one had to press a button on the side of the seat, and lean back to the angle one preferred. All very simple. We had no beds, but were provided with rugs if needed. We just sat in our tilted seats all the time. Chewing gum was provided for anyone who liked to keep his or her jaws in good practice.

The weather here is still pretty hot, and in the afternoon it reaches the region of 95 degrees. Most of the time I am toggled up in a pair of trousers and a very thin shirt, but quite often the shirt is dispensed with. We are seven hours behind you on the clock, and only some 400 miles from Hollywood. The air here is just about the driest on earth.

It will seem quite strange spending Christmas here, as it will be the first Christmas I will have spent apart from my family. And I expect by the time I return home I will be as brown as a nigger. I am enjoying really good music, good food, and a very comfortable car. Nobody walks here, everybody rides to escape the heat.

And now for a six months' holiday, or as the Yanks say, a six months' vaycation!

Young St. Dunstaners Marriages

The son of W. Holmes, of Witton Park, in Germany to Miss Edith Hohmann.

On November 23rd, Pearl Yarwood, Wythenshawe, to Mr. Robert Falshaw. Pupils at the bride's School of Dancing gave a display in her honour at the social which followed the wedding reception.

On July 17th, Brenda Thomas (Neasden) to Mr. T. J. Philpin.

★ ★ ★

The daughter of A. Massey, Reading, had a son on October 6th. She now lives at St. John's, Newfoundland.

Chess Week-end at Brighton

Chess players from all parts came to Brighton on Nov. 5th to play in the annual tournament for the Championship Cup.

Two matches were played against outside teams, as in the previous year, viz.: The Brighton Chess Club and the pick of the Boys' League.

Although the St. Dunstan's players were strengthened somewhat by the inclusion of Dick Slaughter and the much improved Basil Porter, the result was not a great deal better than last year.

We failed to win a game against Brighton Chess Club, but the Boys allowed us to win two and a half games.

In our own Club Matches, there was much to be remembered for many a day, if only for the headaches which resulted after the stern struggles which took place in all rounds leading to the final.

First Round—A. Condon *v.* T. Tuxford; B. Hammett *v.* R. Slaughter; C. Scott *v.* F. Kirkbright; D. Vine *v.* H. Porter; E. Hill *v.* F. Parker; F. Cookson *v.* P. Maskell; Bye, G. Fallowfield.

Second Round—T. Tuxford *v.* F. Kirkbright; R. Slaughter *v.* P. Maskell; G. Fallowfield *v.* H. Porter; Bye, E. Hill.

Semi-final—H. Porter *v.* E. Hill; P. Maskell *v.* F. Kirkbright.

Final—E. Hill *v.* P. Maskell. Resulted in a draw.

After making enquiries, I find that the general opinion is that our programme for this annual Chess Weekend is too heavy to be carried out in the short time allotted. Another observation was that the Brighton Chess Club is far too strong for our class of chess. At the same time we are most grateful for the experience gained by meeting so strong a team consisting of at least five county players.

The Final, resulting in a draw, must be encouraging to all our members, for it proves our Cup can be won by anyone who plays chess. Can we hope, therefore, to have the pleasure of playing against some of the St. Dunstaners of this last war?

Before I close, allow me to say a word of appreciation on behalf of my chess pals, for the kindness shown to us by the whole Staff at West House. I feel sure that the Boys' League thought it well worth while paying us a visit, for their appetites were well appeased, and the ice cream, Oh Boy! Oh Boy!

Tux.

A Motoring Holiday Abroad

Sgt. Alan Nichols spent a motoring holiday in France and Switzerland in September and he has sent us a most interesting summary of his trip, which covered 2,080 miles from door to door. He says that the cost to his party of five, including hotels and petrol, worked out at £16 15s. 0d. per head for the fourteen days.

If any St. Dunstaner would like details of the route the party took, the Editor will be pleased to send it on, and Nick will be happy to answer any questions of the subject of petrol and to give useful information regarding the position in France and Italy.

He says, "The £10 one has to pay for the return journey from Dover to Calais for the car is well worth noting, because the return fares for five persons from London to Zurich is £78 and we covered more than 1,000 miles over and above that trip, so it is hardly necessary to refer to the advantages of a motoring holiday as compared to a set objective by train."

Young St. Dunstaners

George Fallowfield, junior, who joined the Southwick Model Aero Club a year ago, has won the silver challenge cup for the best designed aircraft. This included its flying performance throughout the flying season; on average his model flew fastest and furthest. He is 13.

"Paddy" Tuxford has passed his School Certificate Examination in spite of eight weeks' absence through illness. He is also fast becoming a champion runner, being second in the Senior Cross Country Run and second in the West of England Air Force Cadets' Mile.

Desmond Jackson (Ashford) has won the National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering awarded by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Hetty Marsden (Alderholt) is sitting for Mr. Augustus John, the artist.

Paddy Coleman, Northampton, has obtained the National Diploma in Design (Painting) and hopes to get a place at the Royal College of Art, London.

Coming to the microphone on January 6th — Christine McLoughlin, who will broadcast a group of songs from the Dublin station.

Peers Demand Inquiry on War Pensions

From the "Daily Telegraph" December 9th, 1943:—

"The Government suffered its first Parliamentary defeat of the session this evening when the House of Lords, by 47 votes to 30, called for an inquiry into existing rates of war pensions and disability allowances.

The Government had strenuously resisted the proposal, Viscount Addison, Leader of the House, contending that such an inquiry would carry an imputation on the work of the Ministry of Pensions, which had been uniformly praised.

Pressed by the Marquess of Salisbury, Leader of the Opposition, to accept an inquiry, if only to prove that the Government were right, Lord Addison still refused to agree, but when a division was taken, Conservative, Liberal and non-party peers entered the lobby together to carry the motion.

The vote was on a resolution moved by Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of Cork and Orrery,

'That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived to hold an inquiry as to whether the existing rates of war pensions and disability allowances are adequate to meet requirements under the conditions at present prevailing.'

Lord Cork said that the suggestion had been put forward by the British Legion and nine other ex-Servicemen's organisations, but the Government had not only refused the request, but had insinuated that it was made from political motives.

This he indignantly denied. Indeed, in asking for an inquiry, were the associations not going the best way to keep the subject out of politics? (Opposition cheers).

'I sometimes think politicians take themselves too seriously,' he continued amid laughter, "and imagine that this nation consists of two sets of people always running along strict party lines. As a matter of fact, the great mass of the population are only too ready to work together for the common interest.'

The present basic rate of 40s. a week was fixed as long ago as 1919, and was increased in 1946 to 45s.—12½ per cent. in 30 years. During that period the value of the pound had fallen to 60 per cent, and industrial wages had risen by probably 80 per cent.

He earnestly pleaded with the Government, which had a good record for humanitarian treatment, to agree to the appointment of a small impartial committee of men known throughout the country for their standing and integrity.

Viscount Bridgeman supported Lord Cork's plea, if only for the effect on the reputation of the Services.

Lord Moynihan thought the basic rate should be related in some way to the cost of living, and the minimum rate should give freedom from fear and want.

Lord Crook opposed the motion, saying that although for years he had fought for better pensions, the last three years had seen the end of the things against which he had agitated.

Lord Llewellyn thought the case for an inquiry had been made out. It did seem ludicrous that basic pensions which were 40s. in 1922 should only have risen to 45s. during that period.

Opposing the motion, Lord Calverley commented, 'I wish the British Legion, instead of hoarding its money, would spend it more freely.'

He was promptly rebuked by Lord Cromwell, treasurer of the British Legion, who pointed out that in the past two years, the Legion had spent £250,000 more than it had received.

Lord Calverley: In that case, I withdraw what I said.

Lord Cromwell, continuing, said he could not understand why the Government were reluctant to refer this matter to an impartial inquiry.

Viscount Hall, First Lord of the Admiralty, replying to the debate, said this was a matter above party. There had been great changes both in the amount of pensions and in the Ministry's attitude, and the Government could see no real difficulty of the sort which usually required reference to an inquiry.

The Government's policy was to give help where it was most needed. It was true that the basic rate had only been increased from 40s. to 45s. whereas rates in industry had risen much more, but the majority of pensioners, 80 or even 90 per cent., were working and sharing in those increased rates of pay.

The Government had been concerned to make provision for those who could not earn, and this they had done by vastly increased allowances.

He illustrated his argument by quoting a case of a 100 per cent. disabled man, who in 1938 received 40s. basic pension plus 15s. for attendance. To-day the same pensioner received £2 5s. basic pension, 16s. for his wife whom he married after disablement, 30s. unemployability supplement, and 40s. for attendance, which totalled £6 11s. a week. In addition he was supplied with a free motor-car and an upkeep allowance of £45 a year.

Lord Cork, replying, said no one had challenged the kindness of the Ministry of Pensions. The trouble, he supposed, was that 'the Government dare not face up to Sir Stafford Cripps and ask for a few millions more.' (Ministerial laughter).

Lord Salisbury, intervening, said the First Lord had argued against an increase, more than against an inquiry. The Government would be wise to set up some form of inquiry, if only to clear the air or prove themselves right.

Lord Addison rose and sharply said he regretted Lord Salisbury's attitude. The Leader of the Opposition knew that when an inquiry of this kind was asked for it was on the basis of some urgent public matter, defective administration, serious injustice, or something of that kind.

Nothing of the sort was alleged here; in fact, everyone had showered compliments on the Minister of Pensions (Mr. Marquand) and the Government could not possibly accept the imputation which such an inquiry carried with it.

Lord Salisbury: There is no imputation that the Government has not done enough. If the Government wishes to avoid imputation, the wisest plan is to agree to an inquiry.

Lord Addison hotly retorted that he could not possibly accept that position. It was all very well for the House to say there would be no imputation, but that would be forgotten when the inquiry started. It would give the impression that there had been some maladministration, defect or lack of sympathy.

Lord Addison was interrupted by loud Opposition cries of dissent. 'Oh, yes,' he continued, after a pause, 'that will be the effect and that is what we cannot possibly agree to.'

The division was then taken, Lord Cork and Lord Allwyn acting as tellers for the 'Ayes', and Lord Morrison for the 'Noes.' "

In the course of his remarks, Lord Cork (Cons.) said the discussion originated from the fact that the President of the British Legion (Sir Ian Fraser) had given notice of Motion asking for a Select Committee to go into this question of disability allowances. The President of the British Legion was speaking not only for the organisation over which he presides with such distinction but for nine other associations dealing with ex-Servicemen.

Lord Crook, a Labour peer, also referred to our Chairman. Rejecting the idea that there are more facts that need bringing out, he said, "As a result of the action of Sir Ian Fraser in 1946 and as a result of the intensive work on this matter in another place in July of this year, there never was a better understanding in this country of where we stand. . . . There are many other things that I would have liked to say. . . . I would that there were words of my own with which to conclude satisfactorily what I have said to your Lordships, but I am fortunate that I am able to read the better words, written from a much greater depth of feeling, of Sir Ian Fraser, my admiration for whom I have already indicated; he said:

'No money in the world could make a man happy if he is unfit. Certainly no money in the world can make a man happy if he is in any way cut off from some of the activities of life. Nothing can contribute so much to one's happiness as having to work, and having to work hard.' "

Placements

E. Bedford, Shipley, with Messrs. Wilkinsons, Ltd., Bradford, as an upholsterer; W. H. Robertson, Ipswich, as a shop-keeper; J. Proctor, Brighton, as a shop-keeper, his business including a railway and ticket agency; P. J. Nicholson, with Messrs. Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Nottingham, on plastic moulding work; F. Pawson, as Industrial Superintendent to the Ex-Service Welfare Society; S. Worthington, with The Distillers Co., Ltd., Liverpool, on electrical switch work connected with maintenance; B. Josey, as a hand press operator with Messrs. A. B. Metals, Great South West Road, Feltham, Middlesex; W. Harby, as a telephonist with the South-Eastern Electricity Board, Dorking; A. Dodgson, as an upholsterer with the Standard Upholstery Company, Mitcham.

West House Notes

An invitation was extended to us by Mr. Babonau of the National Institute for the Blind on November 17th for five men to go to a party at the Lantern, Preston Road. After a most enjoyable time, F. Allcock, E. Hall, Isaac Jones, Martin Manning and W. Sheridan adjourned with the rest of the guests to the Dolphin Theatre.

Our debate this month caused much mirth. The subject "Should Women use Cosmetics?" was strongly supported by the ladies, but the men rather thought otherwise. However, the motion was carried by 75 per cent.

November was greatly brightened by the (1) Chess and (2) Bridge Weekends. Full accounts of these events will be found elsewhere in this issue of the REVIEW.

To herald in the winter's activities, one of the most looked-forward-to events of the season was the Grocers' Federation Annual Dinner, which took place at the Princes Ballroom, Aquarium, on November 18th. After dinner the speeches expressed the warm friendship which exists between the Grocers and the St. Dunstaners. The Mayors of Brighton and Hove were present amongst other guests. Miss Morley, the Brighton Secretary, had a grand ovation, perhaps greater than ever this year as she has recently undergone a most serious operation and indeed it was doubted whether she would be well enough to be present.

We have had several invitations to the Manor Farm Estate Social Club and small parties of men have had most enjoyable evenings this month. We had several other entertainments by our friends in Brighton and Hove, notable among them being C. Bullock and his entertainers and the Wilfrid Players.

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Services

On Sunday, December 5th, at West House, we held a Memorial Service to our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson. Lady (Arthur) Pearson, Sir Neville Pearson and Mr. Nigel Pearson were present and the men were delighted to meet them before the Service.

Sir Neville read a most appropriate lesson, Ecclesiastes, Chapter 12, verses 1-7. The Rev. W. J. Taylor and the Rev. D. Pettit (St. Dunstaner) officiated. Charlie Thomas sang "Comfort Ye," "Thy Rebuke" and

"Behold and See" from Handel's "Messiah," and the other soloist, Cathleen Ramsden rendered "Abide with Me" very beautifully. The pianist was Orderly George Ball. A very moving address was given by George Killingbeck.

The congregation was a large one and included many St. Dunstaners living in Brighton and district, which necessitated holding the Service in the Conservatory instead of the Chapel. This, however, did not detract from the beauty of the Service, which, although simple and dignified, greatly impressed those able to be present.

The flowers from the altar were taken round to Sir Arthur's sister, Miss Pearson (the first Matron of West House), the following day, as she was not well enough to attend the service.

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At Ovingdean, on the same day, the Chapel was crowded for the Service to Sir Arthur's memory.

The Service was taken by the Rev. Dennis Pettitt and Sir Neville Pearson read the Lesson. Jock Boyd, in a simple, sincere address, paid tribute to Sir Arthur's memory. He referred to the deep sympathy and understanding which had led him to found St. Dunstan's—"his memorial for all time."

Lady (Arthur) Pearson and Mr. Nigel Pearson were also present at this Service.

December 9th

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, Sir Ian Fraser, with Lady Fraser, and accompanied by Drummer N. Downs, W. Miller and Corporal Major J. Dawkins, visited Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath was placed on Sir Arthur's grave bearing this inscription:—

"Sir Arthur Pearson—Founder of St. Dunstan's. In affectionate and grateful remembrance from the war-blinded men and women of the Empire, 1914-18 and 1939-45."

From Our Postbag

In the current issue there is an intelligent suggestion about our badges to which I would like to offer my full support.

As I am at the moment using an electric razor riding over the carbuncle scars, I must agree to another remark in the same issue. To a lazy man they are a boon.

G. SWINDELL.

Bridge Club Notes

During the week-end, November 12th to 15th, thirty-six St. Dunstaners met at West House, Brighton, at the invitation of Matron Ouseley and Commandant Fawcett for what has come to be regarded as the annual bridge week-end at West House. It was in many respects a repeat performance of the 1947 party, and this was a grand reunion of St. Dunstan's bridge players from all parts of the country, even as far north as Glasgow. One outstanding figure was absent—Drummer. As a member of the Committee, his absence was the more serious.

The programme comprised a partner bridge drive on Saturday afternoon, a friendly game of bridge on Saturday evening, cutting-in for partners, but Sunday afternoon was the highlight of the week-end for by kind permission of Matron and her wonderful staff, we were able to entertain a large number of visitors from the Hove Bridge Club, each St. Dunstaner having a visitor for a partner.

A very sincere vote of appreciation for the valuable help rendered to us on the Saturday afternoon and evening by members of the Hove Club was extended to them.

On behalf of all those who had the good fortune to enjoy this week-end, I would ask Matron Ouseley, the Commandant, and their wonderful staff, especially Miss Meldrum and Mrs. Uffley, the Catering Officer, to accept our best thanks for all the work and effort exerted to ensure that the week-end would be a success—which it most certainly was.

Last, but by no means least, I should like to acknowledge the valuable assistance so willingly given by Mr. A. Field in connection with many of our bridge events which is so very much appreciated.

Results

Duplicate (Mitchell movement) Championship:
North-south—W. van Niekerk and F. King.
East-west—H. Gover and P. Nuyens.

Bridge Drive, Saturday evening:
First pair—P. Nuyens and H. Miller.
Second pair—H. Gover and G. Jolly.

Bridge Drive, Sunday afternoon:
1st—Mrs. E. Harrison and F. Winter.
2nd—Lady Nell and G. Jolly.
3rd—Lady George Seymour and E. Carpenter.

Ilkley Congress

During the week-end, November 26th to 29th, members of the Bridge Club paid their annual visit to the Ilkley (Yorks) Bridge Congress when bridge of a very high standard was encountered, and it is most gratifying to know that those who took part in the various events and represented St. Dunstan's, upheld the prestige of the Bridge Club and emulated the spirit of all those who have been accorded the privileges and distinction of being styled "St. Dunstaners."

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Club will be held on Saturday, February 5th, at 2.30 p.m.

FRANK A. RHODES,

Captain and Secretary.

Blackpool Notes

The Blackpool Home would like to introduce itself into these pages by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas with the gay and colourful events in plenty which make the festive season such a welcome break from the bleak winds and fog that tend to envelop us at this time of the year. We got off to a flying start on October 7th by welcoming St. Dunstaners back after the vacation—even the sun rose to the occasion.

Wednesday, October 13th was a red letter day. We were honoured by a visit from Sir Neville and Lady Pearson. Coffee was served in the Lounge, to which St. Dunstaners living in Blackpool were invited and were thus afforded the opportunity of meeting our distinguished visitors. After lunch, which was taken in the dining room—men acting as hosts—Sir Neville and Lady Pearson started for home, leaving behind a feeling of comradeship and goodwill.

November 11th being the original Armistice day, St. Dunstaners remembered in their own way; at 12.30 p.m. we were welcoming members of the Manchester Club to share our activities. They were entertained to lunch at the Bourne Hotel opposite us, then a simple service of Remembrance was held in the Lounge, followed by the ever welcome cup of tea. The sporting event, a domino tournament did, alas, result in a crashing defeat for our guests. Now we are in full swing preparing to make merry during the coming weeks.

This is Blackpool signing off.

Ovingdean Notes

A very proud occasion for St. Dunstan's this month was the visit of the Royal Naval and civilian staff of H.M.S. Daedalus to Ovingdean on November 10th. A report of this visit is given elsewhere in the REVIEW.

M. Droin, from the International Red Cross Society, Switzerland, was a very interested visitor to Ovingdean on November 12th. On the 26th, we were very pleased to welcome a party of the partially deaf and dumb children from the School which has recently moved to Ovingdean Hall.

Messrs. Carreras, Ltd., the manufacturers of "Craven A" cigarettes, kindly acknowledged a request from the Shopkeepers' Class and entertained a small party at their factory in Hampstead Road, London, on November 1st, with Miss McAndrew, and the remainder of the Class with Miss Willett on November 5th. To St. Dunstaners who are planning to enter the tobacco business as retailers, the tour over the factory proved of immense value as, apart from being instructive as far as the manufacture of cigarettes is concerned, it provided an insight into the commercial side of the trade, touching on such things as costs and marketing. The trips were planned ostensibly for the purpose of acquiring knowledge of the industry generally, but Messrs. Carreras went a step further and entertained the parties to lunch among their own staff in one of their up-to-date canteens.

The "Lest We Forget" Association gave a supper dance on November 4th at the Dudley Hotel, and invited St. Dunstaners and their escorts, which was very much enjoyed; we think it safe to say that this will be an annual event and one of those occasions to which one will look forward. An excellent variety concert arranged by Norris Productions, Ltd., took place in the Music Hut on November 10th in which personalities of television entertained. The audience was most appreciative, but not very large.

West House and Ovingdean joined forces at the Christmas party of those very good friends, the Grocers' Association, when they held their Dinner and Dance at the Princes Hall. The Ovingdean Dance Band—Messrs. Ellis, Harsworth, Emerson and Glover—was invited to play for a

British Red Cross Society Dance at the Village Hall, East Preston, on the 23rd. The evening was a huge success.

In spite of the entertainment, Ovingdean is still a hive of industry. Work is taken very seriously and the Debating Society is as active as usual. During the debate, "That it is better to live dangerously than wisely," much lively argument was heard and the dangerous livers got the vote! The subject, "That mass emigration from the United Kingdom is the solution to the economic problem of the Commonwealth," was indeed a difficult one and no definite conclusion was arrived at. There were interesting points of view from Canada, New Zealand, India, Australia and America. The month's debates concluded on November 30th, when the Roedean Girls' School Debating Society took their part in the debate, "That this country pays too much respect to tradition." The motion was overwhelmingly outvoted. The inter-Trainees and Trainees *v.* Staff quizzes are always most enjoyable and a good deal of fun. The trainees seem to be the more successful on these occasions.

The Shooting Trophy for this month was won by Dormitory 1 with 11 points, the runners-up being Dormitory 2, with 8. Dormitory 5 obtained the highest aggregate with 1,079 out of a possible 1,200.

Matches played against outside teams during this month were as follows:—

November 9th.—Brighton Crescent "C" Rifle Team 191 points, St. Dunstan's Team 205 points.

November 23rd.—Newhaven Rifle Club 215 points, St. Dunstan's (1914-1918) Team 218 points.

November 24th.—Worthing Squash Rackets Rifle Club 200 points, St. Dunstan's (Australian) Team 216 points.

Test Results

Typing—W. Seymour, A. Bramson, A. Marsden, G. Elphick, E. Crook, A. Gimbrere (Mrs.), K. Jenkins (Australian), L. Johnstone (Australian), E. Hailes (Australian), J. Pottage (Australian).

Senior—B. Simon (Mrs.), J. E. Davies, T. Ap Rhys, J. L. Brooke.

Advanced—A. Bennett (Dover), A. E. Strand, W. C. Scott (Winsford), W. F. Cork.

Writing—E. Warren, L. R. Brown, J. Wilson, E. Hailes (Australian).

Preliminary—R. Pringle, A. Shepherd, S. Russell (Gorton, Manchester).

End-of-Term Concert

A varied programme was presented at the "breaking-up" concerts given at Ovingdean on December 2nd and 3rd.

Owing to his duties at the House of Commons, Sir Ian Fraser could not attend but Lady Fraser was present and the audience also included Commandant Fawcett, Matron Pain, Matron Ouseley, Air Commodore G. B. Dacre and Mrs. Dacre, Dr. Webb and Padre Bryant Crane.

The first part of the programme was mainly contributed by trainees and included songs by Jack Cook, Joe Ormond, Stanley Oliver, Les White, Trevor Baker and Munro Donald; two monologues by George Killingbeck; and items by the full choir. The compere was Tommy Rogers.

After the interval, the V.A.D.s and staff presented a pantomime, "Cinderella," in which "three trainees" surprisingly appeared (Ted Bullen, Alf Shepherd and Alby Ryan), and Les White, Joe Ormond and T. Baker helped to supply the musical commentary.

St. Dunstan's Girls' Hostel

The address of our Girls' Hostel is now:

Port Hall,

Greenways,

Ovingdean,

Nr. Brighton, Sussex.

Tel. No.: Rottingdean 9758.

Tobacco Relief Refused

In the House of Commons, on November 25th, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware of the decision of the Board of Customs and Excise that an ex-Serviceman disabled in the highest degree who accepts the offer of the Minister of Pensions to give up his retirement pension of 26s. a week in order to receive the 30s. a week unemployment supplement to which he is entitled by reason of his disability, is to lose his entitlement to the Tobacco Duty relief granted to old age pensioners and whether, in view of the small amount of money involved and to the fact that if the concession is taken away the man will lose 2s. 4d. of the 4s. he is gaining by the change-over, he would allow the man to continue to receive the benefit of the concession.

Mr. Douglas Jay: "I regret that it is not possible to continue tobacco duty relief to ex-Servicemen who cease to draw a retirement pension."

Births

BRADLEY.—On November 1st, to the wife of A. G. Bradley, of Harrow, a daughter—Joan Elizabeth.

KELLY.—On November 28th, to the wife of W. P. Kelly, of Workington, a daughter—Ann Catherine.

KEMPE.—On November 12th, to the wife of S. Kempe, of Redruth, a son—Francis Courtenay Clowance St. Augyn Coryton.

RIPLEY.—On December 1st, to the wife of F. Ripley, of Leatherhead, a son—Jonathan.

WILSON.—On October 19th, to the wife of R. G. Wilson, of South Mimms, a daughter—Ann.

WHITE.—On December 1st, to the wife of J. D. White, of Beeston, Notts., a son—Terry.

Marriage

HARRISON—FARRANT.—On July 3rd, Jane Harrison to Mr. Edwin Farrant.

Deaths

We extend our very sincere sympathy to the following:—

CALVERT.—To Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Calvert, of Ormskirk, whose daughter passed away on July 8th. It is much regretted that this notice has been delayed.

FENNELL.—To J. V. Fennell, of Tooting, whose wife passed away suddenly on November 25th.

HURST.—To H. Hurst, of Great Longstone, who lost his wife on November 22nd. She leaves a large family to mourn her loss.

NORTH.—To T. North, of Cannock, whose wife passed away on December 7th.

WEEDALL.—To W. Weedall, of Liverpool, who lost his wife on December 1st.

WHITE.—To P. White, of Leominster, in the loss of his wife on November 20th, after much suffering.

★ ★ ★

Those who knew her will regret also to learn of the death of Mrs. Postlethwaite, mother-in-law of A. Rodgers, of Barrow-in-Furness.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. C. Apps, East Molesley, last February (our first intimation); Mr. and Mrs. T. Ashe, Lancing, December 1st. Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Pike, Brighton, December 15th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Woods, Edmonton, December 25th; Mr. and Mrs. D. J. McLoughlin, December 28th. Congratulations.

“ In Memory ”

Gunner Samuel Evans, *Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. Evans, of Aberdare.

He had been discharged from the Army in 1918, but he did not come to us until 1948, although severe gassing had not only caused blindness but had also badly affected his lungs.

He had a gentle personality, bearing his handicaps with quiet courage, and he will be greatly missed by his wife and daughter, to whom we offer our very sincere sympathy.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was amongst the flowers at the funeral.

Private George Brewer, *Labour Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of G. Brewer, of Redruth, who came to St. Dunstan's in 1920 and was trained as a netter.

The many floral tributes included one from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades and another from the British Legion, which was also represented at the funeral.

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Brewer and her sixteen-year old daughter.

Private Gordon John Boulwood, *Middlesex Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. J. Boulwood, of Romford, who was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1922 and trained as a basket-maker.

He had lived with his family in Romford for twenty-one years, but had been confined to bed for the past twenty-two months; he died at his home on November 15th.

A wreath from Sir Ian and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and grown-up family.

A.B. Stephen O'Connell, *Royal Navy*

With deep regret we record the death of S. O'Connell, of Brighton.

He came to us in 1916 and trained as a mat-maker, but for some time prior to his death he had been staying at the Blackpool Home owing to the illness of his wife. He died at our Home on November 1st and was buried at the Cemetery at Carleton near three of his St. Dunstan's comrades.

St. Dunstaners D. Cockerill and A. J. Jones, Matron Vaughan-Davies, and Sisters Hunt and Berry attended the funeral. A poppy wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was placed on the coffin, which was covered with the Union Jack.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife who is herself lying ill in Brighton Hospital.

Private Leonard Pickering Saxton, *Machine Gun Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of L. P. Saxton, of Enfield.

He was discharged from the Army in 1918. He continued as a schoolmaster for many years and it was only when he realised that teaching was too great a strain on his strength that he came to St. Dunstan's in 1938. He trained as a telephonist and was ultimately appointed in that capacity with the Sun Insurance Co. His health was never good, but in spite of all his handicaps he never complained, but maintained a cheerful and optimistic outlook on life. He loved his garden and he was busy in it on the day of his death. He collapsed while he was working there; he was taken to hospital but he died in the ambulance. He was fifty-one.

His St. Dunstan's colleague, C. E. Griffin, was amongst those at the funeral service on December 10th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Saxton in her loss.

Private Harry Palmer, *2nd Queen's Royal West Surreys*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. Palmer, of Thornton Heath.

He was wounded on the Somme in 1916 and he came to St. Dunstan's the same year, where he trained as a netter. He suffered for many years and never recovered from the loss of his Royal Air Force son, who was killed in an air raid in March, 1944, when they lost all their home and were buried for hours under the debris.

He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

W. F. Archibald, *South African Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of W. F. Archibald, of Natal, South Africa. He served from 1917 until 1919 and came to us two years later, his sight having failed. He trained as a poultry farmer and returned to South Africa where he carried on for many years.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Pioneer John Foster, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Foster, of Boreham Wood.

Discharged from the Army in 1917, his sight failed and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1939. He was trained in mat-making and later went into industry, but he had been seriously ill for a long time. He passed away on December 3rd.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 357—VOLUME XXXII

JANUARY, 1949

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

SOME months ago, I raised in the House of Commons and by correspondence with Ministers, the question whether some help could be given to disabled men to secure motor cars. There were two aspects of this matter to which my friends and I drew attention. Firstly, the general case of all disabled men and particularly of those who had some difficulty in getting about. They were late in getting on waiting lists and cars were very expensive, especially when Purchase Tax was added. I moved in the House of Commons to give these men priority and take off the Purchase Tax, but the Government refused this on the ground that they could not single out a particular class, however deserving, for such treatment, and that the removal of Purchase Tax would present very great administrative difficulties. I must say that I was not very convinced with the answer and we may raise the matter again. About the same time, some of us in the House of Commons had raised the question whether the motor tricycle supplied free by the Ministry of Pensions to pensioners who had lost both legs was really the most suitable vehicle for them. Many of us have admired the way severely disabled men go about on these tricycles and they have the advantage that they are small enough to be economically housed and even to get through the gates and drive right up to the touch-line at a football match. On the other hand, they are exposed to the weather for there is no hood, and the disabled man has to go by himself, for the vehicle is a one-seater. Moreover, the cost to the Ministry of these vehicles, which are specially made in small numbers, is probably as great or greater than the cost of mass-produced 8-h.p. motor cars.

The effect of our raising the Purchase Tax issue was to produce, almost as a kind of by-product, a very valuable concession for the tricycle men, who were now to be allowed to choose an 8-h.p. four-wheeler instead, which would be taxed and insured by the Ministry, and, in addition, an allowance of £45 a year towards the garaging, running and upkeep expenses of the car would be provided.

A further concession was made at my request by Mr. Buchanan, then Pensions Minister, to allow very severely disabled men who could not drive a car themselves to have a free car which could be driven by a wife or friend. The total number of cars involved in the whole of this proposal is extremely limited, namely, about 1,500 spread over two years, and the majority of these will be absorbed by the tricycle men who change over to the four-wheeler. There are, however, just a few which are being allocated to disabled men who cannot drive themselves and amongst these a small number is available for St. Dunstaners. The Minister of Pensions, Mr. Marquand, has dealt with this matter most sympathetically and has asked our assistance in the extremely difficult task of recommending the individuals who are to be offered a free motor car. This is a very difficult job and whoever are chosen, it is obvious that many will think that the choice might have been otherwise. We shall be guided

in our recommendations by additional disabilities, the need of the car for business purposes, and the general situation of the St. Dunstaner. We have sent our list of recommendations of about seventy names from which the Minister will pick forty-five, and the cars will be offered at the rate of two or three a month, starting shortly. Now that the principle has been established, I expect Parliament and the Ministry of Pensions will want to see how it works and to what extent it might be expanded.

I should like to express our thanks to the Minister of Pensions and to the taxpayers for this generous experiment which will, without doubt, bring mobility and happiness to a small number of our most seriously disabled ex-service men and women.

Retirements

Miss Martha Wood, After-Care Visitor for Scotland and Northern England, retires at the end of February. Miss Wood was a V.A.D. and a Matron at the Bungalow Annexe of St. Dunstan's in the First World War before she joined our Welfare Staff in February, 1929. Not many months ago I paid tribute in this column to the work of our After-Care Visitors as exemplified by Miss Wood, and her retirement reminds us not only of many reunions in the North which she has organised, but also of those far-off days in Regent's Park from 1917 onwards. All who remember Miss Wood in both these periods will join to thank her and wish her happiness.

Miss N. Gordon, S.R.N., has been appointed to take Miss Wood's place and has already started work.

Miss Ivy Coultate has also just retired after working for St. Dunstan's since 1915. For many years she was Appeals Organiser for the Metropolitan and Home Counties area, and no one, I suppose, spread more goodwill for St. Dunstan's than did Miss Coultate with her vigorous personality. Many voluntary organisers and others throughout the area will join with us in thanking Miss Coultate for her distinguished and successful services, as will many St. Dunstaners who lived in her area and took part in various activities which she organised.

IAN FRASER.

Greetings from all over the World

At Christmas, Sir Ian Fraser, on behalf of St. Dunstaners everywhere, sent telegrams of greeting to our friends in kindred societies and organisations affiliated with us all over the world.

Among the replies that have been received are the following:

From France: "The blinded soldiers of France are very grateful for the kind wishes of St. Dunstaners and send theirs in return for a happy new year.—Isaac, President, Union Aveugles de Guerre."

From India: "Season's greetings.—St. Dunstan's, Dehra Dun, India."

From Scotland: "Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you and Lady Fraser and all at St. Dunstan's.—John Gavin."

★ ★ ★

P. J. Sparkes, of Grimsby, has been presented with a clock and pipe by the British Legion.

Norman Perry, also of Grimsby, has been elected President of his Battery Old Comrades' Association.

St. Dunstaner Grows His Own Tobacco

A. Hamlett, of Winsford, and his sons are just completing their first tobacco-growing experiment. Altogether they have produced nine pounds and our St. Dunstaner has tried out some of the leaf which, he says, smokes very satisfactorily if mixed half-and-half with shop tobacco. Next year he hopes to get seed from Virginia and plans to grow sufficient to keep the whole family in "smokes."

A Gift from Switzerland

F. Dear, of Caernarvon, with another disabled ex-serviceman, was chosen by the W.V.S. to be the first recipient in the Caernarvon district of a suite of furniture, the gift of the Government and People of Switzerland. The presentation was made by the Mayor at the Guild Hall. It consisted of a table and four stools, a wardrobe (or cupboard), two single beds with mattresses and pillows, and a very good selection of kitchen utensils. The furniture is of unpolished wood.

A Good Offer

We now have in stock a number of the old Talking Book machines which have been converted for playing ordinary gramophone records. These are all-electric (A.C. current only) and may be purchased at a cost of £5. These machines are in a perfectly good electrical condition, although the cases, of course, are not new, and for those who want a really good gramophone on which to enjoy ordinary records, this is an excellent opportunity.

Applicants should write to Men's Supplies as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Owing to the difficult supply position, Men's Supplies Department would be very grateful if St. Dunstaners would return any wooden packing cases in which they have received goods.

Piano Tuning Success

Alan Hold has just completed two years' study with the London Polytechnic in piano tuning with outstanding success. He was top of his class in the last six consecutive examinations and in the finals for membership of the Institution of Instruments Technology he took first place, gaining 100 marks in all subjects taken.

As a token of his success, a silver presentation has been made to him by the school.

A Deaf-Blind Party

Mr. Aneurin Bevan addressed an audience of one hundred and forty men and women on 11th December, his words being spelled out on scores of hands. Two St. Dunstaners were there—"Ginger" Scott and Percy Ashton—and it was Scottie to whom Hannen Swaffer was referring when he wrote in the "Daily Herald" the next day of "a voluntary helper, a near-blind masseur, whose hobby is his worse-stricken pal." The National Deaf-Blind Helpers League want more members who will spend a few hours a week in giving friendship and encouragement to those in this country, more than 3,000 in number, who can sense neither sight nor sound.

The finger language is rapidly becoming known as "paw-jaw" or "pawj" for short. This was Scottie's idea.

Placement

S. Waddingham, with Messrs. Ericsson's Telephones Ltd., Beeston, Notts. on plastic moulding work.

National Insurance

One of the points raised by Sir Ian Fraser when challenging the Provisional Regulations relating to Overlapping Benefits was a restriction whereby certain disabled Service Pensioners and persons in receipt of Workmen's Compensation were prohibited from drawing full personal Unemployment or Sickness Benefit until they had requalified by thirteen weeks of employment.

Sir Ian asked the Minister of National Insurance to justify the restriction, and although the Minister then gave certain reasons why it should be included, the National Insurance Advisory Committee have now recommended that personal Unemployment or Sickness Benefit should be paid in full in addition to a War or Service Disability Pension and in addition to Workmen's Compensation. The restriction has, therefore, been omitted from the Permanent Regulations which have just been issued.

Greetings from the Navy

The Commanding Officer, officers and members of the staff of H.M. Naval Victualling Depot, Fareham, sent their Christmas greetings to St. Dunstaners in a novel form. Their Christmas card bore sixty-four autographs, representing practically every member of the Depot.

And from Sgt. Nichols

Sgt. Nichols' Christmas card was an original one, too. It was a photograph of himself, in shorts, cigarette in hand, with his dog and his chickens. He wrote: "I can say honestly now my handicap ceases to exist . . . the secret is in this picture."

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," January, 1919:

"It is with justifiable pride that we record that no blinded soldier has had to wait for admission to St. Dunstan's, for we have always been a little ahead of the times, and have made provision for all eventualities.

"The next six months will be the busiest period in the history of St. Dunstan's, for the number of men in training is now well over the 600 mark, and there are many men still in hospital for whom accommodation will be provided."

St. Dunstan's Club Notes

The following members of the National Institute for the Blind who are or have been members of St. Dunstan's staff, have been accepted by the Club Committee as Honorary Members. I am sure that all concerned will join in welcoming them to the Club and its activities. The only differentiation is that they will not be able to have the power of voting or accepting office. The members are: Miss H. L. Leverett, Miss D. Westcott, Miss E. G. Wood, Mr. R. W. Bridger and Mr. W. Burman.

In a previous issue of the REVIEW the address of the Gymnasium which we are hiring was wrongly given and should read as 240 and not 24a Great Portland Street. All are cordially invited to attend.

The Committee extend heartiest New Year wishes to its members and they express the hope that this year will be a very successful and enjoyable one for all.

G. P. O.

Annual General Meeting

The first Annual General Meeting of the Club was held on 7th January, 1949, at Headquarters, under the chairmanship of Mr. P. Owens; Mr. Askew was in attendance.

The members of the Committee for the ensuing year are Messrs. Ashton, Burns, Bradley, Fleming, Gaygan, Rhodes and Wiltshire. The first Committee Meeting was held on 14th January, when the new Chairman was elected.

The Club is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and all are welcome to the Institute of Magicians, Whist Drives, Dominoes, Bridge and other activities. The Committee would like the wholehearted support of all St. Dunstaners.

At the conclusion of the meeting a vote of appreciation was accorded to Messrs. Askew, P. Owens and Willis, and Miss Ibbetson.

The St. Dunstan's Institute of Magicians section entertained their tutors to a surprise tea-party on 20th December. It was remarkable how magic could produce so much from so little. A very enjoyable Club party was held on 21st December, when the star guests were Messrs. James Moody and Harry Hemsley, assisted by local talent.

A special vote of thanks was accorded to Lady Stern whose generosity contributed so largely to the success of the party.

Two successful dances have been held at the Great Cumberland Hall, where everyone had a jolly good time.

On 14th December, a bumper Whist Drive was held, when special prizes were presented through the kindness of Mrs. Sassoon.

We are now embarking on another year of club activities, and look forward to having the support of as many St. Dunstaners as possible. All suggestions welcomed.

Watch this column for our future events.

Other News

Blodwyn Simon has just been made joint president, with Lady Spriggs, of the Ruthin Branch of the British Legion, Women's Section.

★ ★ ★

Gwen Obern has been addressing members of the Aberdare Women's Rotary Club and an interview with her appeared in the Rotary publication, THE INNER WHEEL.

★ ★ ★

A. Rowe, of Burslem, has another granddaughter, and W. Sullivan, of Cork, tells us that he has four great-grandchildren—all doing well. His father was in the Duke of Wellington's 33rd Regiment of Foot and served in the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny.

★ ★ ★

Just before Christmas, a small party was held for St. Dunstaners in the Cork Area and D. Driscoll remarked that it was being held at the time of the christening of Prince Charles. He proposed that the meeting should express its very sincere good wishes for the health and future happiness of the Princess Elizabeth and her baby son. The proposal was received with unanimous and hearty approval.

★ ★ ★

A St. Dunstan's watch has been found. If any St. Dunstaner has lost a watch will he please write to J. E. Cooper, St. Dunstan's, 191 Marylebone Road, N.W.1, giving details of date and place of loss.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations upon their anniversaries to Mr. and Mrs. F. Parker, Marston, December 24th; Mr. and Mrs. G. Fallowfield, Southwick, December 28th.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I feel that I must support the view of Sir Ian in last month's REVIEW regarding the amalgamating or fusing of the different organisations dealing with disabled service men and the dependants of them.

By all means let us run with them through liaison, and let members of one organisation help members of others, but let the different specialists continue to specialise in the organisation which has been built up and perfected by them.

As a St. Dunstaner, I realise that the work put in, and the knowledge derived, makes the organisers of St. Dunstan's real specialists in the work of helping war-blinded men. They have, through years of good work, discovered ways and means of assisting the men to rehabilitate themselves, eased them round awkward corners, and shown them how to dodge corners.

By all means let us belong to the Legion and our Regimental Associations, but let us keep St. Dunstan's as our godparent.

Can I say this. Let us stay St. Dunstaners, but always be ready to help others along, for as St. Dunstaners we are individuals, and not just number something which would be automatic if a large alliance was formed.

Yes! St. Dunstan's for me, and let our torch show the others the way.

N.17. Yours sincerely, JOHN A. MUDGE.

The National Newsletter

DEAR EDITOR,

Could the National Institute be persuaded to allow some better paper for the braille edition of the NATIONAL NEWS-LETTER? I feel pretty sure that you will agree with me that this publication is at least of equal importance to most of the braille magazines and ought to be embossed on equally good paper. Instead, the material at present is so thin and soft that reading is extremely difficult and sometimes quite impossible in patches. I am not referring to any deterioration which may have taken place in transit. In my experience such damage is extremely rare and the postal workers ought, at every opportunity, to be most warmly thanked for the care taken with our literature.

Yours sincerely,
Dumfries. CHARLES MCINTOSH.

(We shall be very glad to receive the comments of other readers of the NEWS-LETTER upon this point).

A Tribute

DEAR EDITOR,

In the course of having to drive my husband round the country, we have had to attend many shows on behalf of St. Dunstan's. On Christmas Eve I was an invited guest at West House and witnessed one of the most impressive scenes I have ever seen, and I should like to pay homage to all who produced it. The scene opened on the Church of St. Dunstan in the East (incidentally one of the playgrounds of my girlhood), showing the stained glass window of the Madonna and Child. This was a work of art. Grouped around were the choristers; the singing of the carols was excellent, the lighting was particularly beautiful, and coupled with the organ and the bells, the scene touched most of us very, very deeply.

The scene and the story, if one may call it so, was compèred by Matron, and here, may I say just a little thing from one woman to another. The curtains parted to show our Matron not in her austere dark blue suit but a radiant figure in a lovely gown of pale grey, outlined with silver sequins, and a heart shaped neck—she was a vision of delight and loveliness. Her description of the scene was, like everything else that night, excellent. I think I can only finish by saying that we have a worthy successor in Matron Ouseley to all our other dear departed Matrons.

Thank you Matron, for a lovely Christmas Eve.

Yours sincerely,
(Mrs.) MILLANE RICHARDSON.

To Poultry Farmers

DEAR EDITOR,

I recently put forward a suggestion that poultry farmers should have a meeting, my idea being that we should renew old friendships and pool knowledge gained over the past years. This proposal was considered by the Welfare Committee and found to be impracticable.

As most of our season's work is completed by the end of August, I am wondering if those interested in this idea would care to arrange their holidays at Brighton for the last week in August and the first week in September. Doubtless we could arrange some such gathering during that period.

I would advise those interested to make early application for accommodation.

Yours sincerely, A. IVOR GWYN.

Three Hates

DEAR EDITOR,

T. Floyd has hit the nail on the head when he speaks of the disadvantages at dominoes, also at the suggestion that it would take no longer for us to feel after each man played, because when we play fives and threes we do it that way; we usually have a partner on these occasions who insists upon the method. Our V.A.D.s and orderlies usually let us choose our own way. It is visitors and other men's wives who want to act dictatorially.

I HATE to be attended at table by a person who cannot talk to me and puts pickles, sauce and mustard on my food.

I HATE to share a room with one who doesn't like the window open wide all night or wants to smoke in bed.

I HATE the vibration caused by others beating time to music by tapping the floor with their feet or a stick, or fist on the arm of a chair when I'm trying to read.

Yours sincerely.

Southwick.

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

Christmas at Northgate

As we awoke on Christmas morning the sun was streaming through the windows. Although this was unusual for Christmas, it was very appropriate for our plans for the day. At 7.30 a.m. we were all excitedly opening our stockings which we were surprised to find full at the end of our beds. Matron came in at eight o'clock and told us to wash and dress quickly and go down to breakfast. Then we all went to church. After the service we all ran home with an appetite for dinner. We had turkey, stuffing, roast potatoes and sprouts. After this we waded through the Christmas pudding which was full of sixpences.

Then to regain our appetites for tea, we went for a long walk over the Downs and on the seashore. When we arrived back at 3.30, tea was awaiting us. The tea was absolutely delicious. There were mince pies, jellies, cakes, etc., not forgetting a huge Christmas cake which was greatly relished.

After tea we all went into the hall and sat in a semi-circle around the brilliantly decorated Christmas tree which was laden with presents. Suddenly there was a loud knock at the door and Father Christmas entered. He then proceeded to hand out

presents to everyone. There was even one for himself. Following this we went into the nursery where we had games and country dancing. After this all the children acted a charade. The word was Northgate. For the first syllable we all came in with coats and scarves on and we were shivering with cold. This was meant to be the north wind. The second syllable was "gate"; we had a kissing gate and we all kissed one another. For the whole word we each did something which was common in Northgate, one rang the Dinner Bell, another shouted "Matron," and so on.

As the evening drew to a close we all thanked the staff for giving us such a lovely Christmas. Then, feeling very tired and happy, we went to bed.

MARY LOVERIDGE.

An Emigrant

Those who met him at Ovingdean in 1946 will be interested to learn that J. F. N. Alton, of Moreton, Cheshire, has sailed for Australia with his family. After treatment John's sight improved so that he was outside the St. Dunstan's category, but he had been trained for assembly and he left us to take up a job as an aircraft assembly fitter at Hooton. Now, after much discussion with the authorities, he has been accepted as an emigrant and he sailed for Australia on January 11th. The "Daily Mail" had a story and photograph of him the next day. When he lands he will take up a job with a Government aircraft firm in Melbourne.

The good wishes of all his St. Dunstan's friends will go with him.

National Laying Test

Report for the second period of four weeks, Nov. 8th to Dec. 5th, 1948.

Posn.	Name	Test Score
1	Bagwell, Philip ...	159
2	Gregory, T. D. ...	134
3	Webb, William ...	129
4	Woodcock, W. J. ...	107
5	Jarvis, Albert ...	102
6	MacIntosh, Charles ...	101
7	Chaffin, Albert ...	100
8	Clarke, T. ...	92
9	Young, W. E. ...	68
10	Holmes, Percy ...	58
11	Smith, W. Alan ...	47
12	Carpenter, E. H. ...	37
Average per bird to date—		16.20.

West House Notes

December festivities were heralded in by a visit from the Denham Film Studios Social and Sport Club Concert Party. We were delighted to welcome amongst the guests the Mayor of Brighton, Councillor Friend-James, and Miss Milne, Matron of the Royal Sussex Hospital, who has always been so good to our boys. The Concert Party gave us a first-class performance, including a Talent Competition which was very popular, and the lucky St. Dunstaners were:

Tiny Fleming, first prize;
 Tiny Northcott, second prize;
 Rope Trick Warren, third prize;
 John Mudge, fourth prize.

The Christmas programme from December 20th onwards went with a non-stop riot of entertainment, including dances with special competitions, visits to local pantomimes, Laurence Fawcett and his Twenty Questions, and our old friend, Jack Sullivan, leading the community singing.

We only wish that West House had elastic walls so that we could have accommodated more of our old friends whom we missed.

The Domino Tournament and Whist Drive were more popular than ever, and we were very thrilled to see so many St. Dunstaners and their wives. The prize-winners for the Domino Tournament were:

Residents—

Dai Thomas, first prize;
 F. Hemsworth, second prize;
 Jack Orrell, third prize.

Local St. Dunstaners—

Ethel Whiteman, first prize;
 F. Frank, second prize;
 W. Sebbage, third prize.

The markers at the winning tables were Mrs. Lamy and Mrs. Edwards.

The prize-winners for the Whist Drive were:

Ladies—

Miss Whiteman, Mrs. Fleetwood and Lady E. Daniells.

Men—

Jock Waddell, Bob Horsley, F. Parker, H. Clevitt, Billy Burnett and W. Bedford.

This year we went all nautical—even our printed programme said: "Christmas Fun and Festivities aboard H.M.S. Ousel"—and we were lucky in procuring all manner of appropriate gear such as a ship's wheel, compasses, pairs of oars, fishing nets

containing shoals of silver-foil fish, lobster pots and ship's lanterns, etc. We have to thank Wing Commander Curtis-Willson of the Yacht Club, Mr. Shipley of the Naval Cadets, and Mr. Savage of Ovingdean, for their grand help. Among the various ensigns was a Red Duster, presented to St. Dunstan's by Tommy Tuxford.

The staff and helpers really made the conservatory look ship-shape, the stage being made into the ship's bridge, complete with bell and wheel.

Mrs. Hufflet did us proud in the galley, and all the tourists thought they were travelling first-class!

One of the high-lights in our programme was a special concert on Christmas Eve arranged by George Killingbeck and compered by Matron, nobly assisted by Bob Osborne, Joe Walch, Tiny Northcott and George Taylor in solos and selections from "Chu Chin Chow." Killy surpassed himself in his "Recumbent Posture"!!! Mr. Francis Gyra, the clever artist from America, directed the second half of the programme. His lovely stained-glass window of the Madonna and Child, representing a corner of the church of St. Dunstan's in the East, was a beautiful background for the choir in their blue cassocks and white pleated surplices. A tableau of six angels followed, kneeling and standing in reverence carrying their golden Madonna lilies and wearing golden halos designed and executed by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Taylor.

On Christmas morning, Commandant and Sue, dressed as a cheery bo'sun and his mate, blew in to distribute the Christmas presents from a lifeboat on wheels. We were delighted to have with us for our Christmas Dinner some of the wives and friends, and it was good to see so many of our boys from the Sick Ward. Those who were not well enough to join us were specially catered for and entertained, and were given presents by the Yacht Club and the Butchers' Association. Orderly Howe assisted by Mr. Savage from Ovingdean, surpassed themselves in the decoration of the Dining Room. The tables, in the form of a horseshoe, were decorated with scarlet, blue and silver striped foil, interspersed with low bowls of anemones, moss and rosemary. At intervals, festive galleons ablaze with colour were laden with crackers of every hue, and during the toasts, which were drunk in port given to us by the

Grocers' Association, greetings telegrams from all over the world were read by the Commandant and Matron.

To round off the day, we finished up with a dance and Christmas party, which included games and competitions.

The following day the Communion and Evensong Services in our little Chapel were very well attended. The Crib looked beautiful, framed in daffodils and Christmas roses, the Star of Bethlehem lighting up the Crib.

In the evening, Ousel's Odd Broadcasters presented various sketches by Joan Brampton, produced by Elsie Brodie and compered by Arthur Mason.

Our Settler Writes Home

At the beginning of the year, W. B. Riley left England to settle in South Africa as "mine host" of the Round House, Cape Town. Here is his first breezy letter home:—

This place is reputed to be one of the best places in the world, at any rate people come from all over to drink in the scenery and our tea at the same time. It comprises the original Round House and an annexe of ten rooms which we let off to boarders. It is backed by mountains, and stands about 800ft. up, and slopes gently down to the sea about a mile and a half away. The intervening land is planted with all kinds of semi-tropical trees, and just outside our back door we have oranges, peaches, apricots, figs and goodness knows what. Nasturtiums and geraniums grow just like weeds, and the latter climb up trees and flower so that they look like as though the tree had been sprinkled with them, and daily we pick large bunches of them to decorate the cafe. This same cafe is unique as we in Britain know them. You see, there is nowhere much to go in this place as Cape Town itself is only a small place. So all the society ladies come out here to air their new dresses and also their latest cars. And our lawns are a miniature Ascot and we graciously supply them with a cup of tea and a small scone for eighteen pence. I am writing this out in the garden under a tree, with nothing on but a pair of flannels and a thin shirt. The perspiration is running off me as the glass is about 40. My wife has just come to say that she has finished writing out the lunch menu. We do about thirty extra ones each day. To-day's

consists of Tomato Soup, Cold Salmon and Cucumber, Roast Duckling or Cold Ham or Chicken, with four different veg., Fresh Fruit Salad with Fresh Cream, then Coffee and Biscuits and three different kinds of cheese. We then have a notice inviting customers to help themselves to the fruit table which we fill with pineapples, peaches, green figs and grapes. This, you will agree, is not bad for four and a tanner.

We have seven coloured waitresses, and I have some real fun with them. Last Saturday they had a wedding. The first job was to find a chap with a soldering iron to mend their jewellery. Then they got toggled up in all the colours of the rainbow—Dolly blues, Irish greens, the brightest of pinks—a lot of rouge and lipstick and just a dab of soot on their noses to top the shine. What smashers! I had another interview with an old boy who was collecting for his church. He was dressed in a loin cloth and a long beard and a gold bracelet just under his knee to keep him from catching cold. He explained to me that as there were forty days and a similar number of nights taken up by the Flood, the Master and Madame of the house were expected to contribute a shilling for each one of them. I explained to him that it was not me who caused the Flood, and anyway, I doubted if there was so much money in the world. So I gave him a threepenny piece. My generosity overwhelmed him; he fell on his face, and after banging his forehead on the floor for a bit, he kissed my feet, and went on his way murmuring blessings on my house. Anyway it sounded like that. Last week we had forty bags of coal sent. The boys emptied them and put the bags in a heap, then they counted the empties. This was easier said than done. For every bag they held up a finger. As there were two of them all went well until they had counted twenty. Then the trouble started. Finally they took off their boots and all was well, but I am looking forward to next time, when I intend to order forty-five.

Since we arrived here, my wife has had some fun with chocolates, nylons and new dresses, but the novelty is wearing off. I still cannot get over the price of booze at eight bob a bottle, and tobacco at one and six a quarter pound. Please remember me to anyone who may ask about us.

All the very best wishes for Xmas,

WILLIAM RILEY.

Talking Book Library

December Draft

Happy New Year, 1949, to all readers or would-be readers. Now to clear up 1948. The last month of the year provided five new books for general circulation. "Columbus," historical fairy tale, heads the list, then "Tomboy in Lace" and "Private Enterprise" bring us up to the last ten years. "An Eye for a Tooth" makes a good adventure yarn, and, finally, "The Westering Sun."

"Columbus," written by Rafael Sabatini, read by Lionel Marson, is well read and well written and gives virility, bombast and strength to a character on his way to world acclamation. The story is convincing enough and enjoyable with settings in Venice and then Spain. (N.B.—Students of history, please do not read this as a text-book).

"Tomboy in Lace," written by Bertha Ruck, read by Lionel Marson, is a good story, well read and well recorded, covering a period, 1942-1947, in the lives of a corporal artist and a land-girl. It is a romantic novel with a good title and several little twists to mark the craftsmanship of the author. Good reading for a post-war story and little is heard of food and shortages.

"Private Enterprise," written by Angela Thirkell, read by Georgie Henschel, is well recorded but gives the reader little chance. This is simply 1945-1947 from an unsympathetic political angle and Mrs. Thirkell was probably hungry when she wrote it. My impression was that the book was written for our grandchildren and their children, and was designed for the 21st century as social history. "Ladies only" is my opinion.

"An Eye for a Tooth," written by Dornford Yates, read by Duncan Carse, is well read and recorded as far as I read, but I was unable to finish it. The setting of the adventure is Central Europe and Mr. Yates uses his well-known team to make exciting reading for us.

"The Westering Sun," written by George Blake, read by Stephen Jack, is a long book, well read and recorded, covering sixty years of a Scottish family through a period of luxurious degeneration, with only one daughter revealing any qualities of stability or responsibility. It is not a good book or a bad book—it is just another book.

NELSON.

"Night Attack"

This episode of the Great War occurred during the early winter of 1917.

A column of the R.A.S.C. were parked in a village about ten miles to the west of Albert. Two of the drivers (who were great chums), had built themselves a bivouac, complete with bunks and a fireplace. This was constructed of timber and tarpaulin sheets, built close up to the face wall in a chalk pit.

Over the head of each bed a small shelf was fitted angle-wise across a corner, on which to place odds and ends and spare rations. On the day in question, each man had been issued, among other things, with a 2lb. container of raspberry jam. These had been duly opened and the lids lightly replaced after using. Came night and all was quiet and peaceful. Suddenly, without warning, pandemonium broke loose. The guard turned out; the C.S.M. came running out of his tent, buttoning his overcoat over his pyjama suit, and with his gas mask, steel helmet and Wellingtons.

When he and the sergeant of the guard reached the point of the uproar they saw a man in a little short shirt, dancing about with his face and top part of his body covered in what they thought was blood; a ghastly and gory sight he looked by the light of a candle.

When they came to dress his wounds, the "blood" was very gritty; it might be shrapnel, but no sound of firing had been heard during the night! Investigation was made, and it was discovered that a rat in search of food on the shelf had overturned the raspberry jam, which had been placed too near the edge of the shelf and had fallen with precision on the face of the sleeper beneath. How do I know all this? Well, I happened to be one of the sleeping men. But don't mention raspberries to the other man.

E. A. MARSDEN.

(The Editor would welcome true amusing stories of service days or since. They should not exceed 250 words and should be shorter, if possible.)

Grandfathers

S. H. Edwards, Hackney; P. Milliss, Sevenoaks.

Ovingdean Notes

Since the end of the Christmas term is always so crammed with parties, the Concert and Pantomime took place at the beginning of December and a short report of the Choir's excellent performance and Miss Carlton's delightful burlesque of "Cinderella" appeared in last month's REVIEW. "Cinderella," a V.A.D., and the Prince of Ovingdean, were played by Miss Genower and Miss Cooper; Miss Carlton herself as the Fairy Sugar Plum was a big hit—she made all her entrances and exits to the accompaniment of a penny whistle—and was ably assisted by her page, Miss Barton. Whilst Cinders was preparing for the Ball—a Monday night dance—Ted Bullen, Ron Smith and Alby Ryan delighted the audience with a comical sketch of three trainees returning from the "White Horse"; then Alby entertained with a tap dance.

Trainees in the Basket Shop took to heart the request Councillor Nicholls made one Tuesday evening at the Dome for children's toys, to be distributed at Christmas time. Each man made a dainty little basket to rejoice the heart of any child, and each basket carried the name and a message of goodwill from the donor. On Tuesday, December 7th, Ted Penny handed the baskets to Councillor Nicholls in the Dome, receiving the appreciation of all who were present.

The Ovingdean Darts Team is still most enthusiastic and this term, out of fifteen matches (nine away and six home) has won ten.

Shooting.—Sixty-one men entered for a knock-out competition at the beginning of the month, and after some very brilliant shooting, the competition was concluded by the following results:

Winner—Ted Penny.

Runner-up—Dickie Richardson.

Stan Oliver and Joe Ormond were knocked out in the semi-finals. A running commentary, which was relayed into the Lounge, was given by Commandant, and Air Commodore Dacre presented the prizes.

The Christmas Dinner and Dance on December 13th brought a happy term to a successful close and we were delighted to have with us at this time Sir Ian and Lady Fraser and Air Commodore and Mrs. Dacre. The dinner was one of the real old-fashioned kind about which one only dreams to-day, and not a thing was lacking to make it a

memorable occasion, and our thanks go to Mrs. Comer and her staff. After speeches and toasts, everyone gathered in the Lounge, then dancing and games were the order of the evening. The fun waxed fast until the clock struck eleven, and the party finished with "Auld Lang Syne."

We should like to send our very best wishes to all who have left Ovingdean this term.

The Tap And All That

Some of us remember what fun we had when we were very small, when we escaped the eyes of Authority and turned on the tap to sail our paper boats in the sink and, incidentally, get ourselves thoroughly soaked. Later, as school children, we put on a superior air and talked of H₂O in front of our little sister; but it wasn't such fun when we were in the classroom and forgot the formula. During the war there were moments when water assumed a new value in our eyes. We thought of it with more respect—a commodity which had become infinitely precious once we were denied unlimited supplies. War over, and the burst pipes repaired, we once more carelessly turn on the tap and water gushes out, fresh and sparkling. We need it to bath the baby, or wash the clothes, or to dilute the thirty under proof—or even to drink neat for those who prefer it that way.

But—and a very big BUT—do we ever stop to think of the journey the water has made before it reaches the tap—a long, long journey through varied countryside to the large towns and cities, where the majority of us live?

May I take you on a tour—in imagination—and travel the same path as the water does day by day.

When the clouds break, the water that the sun had drawn up from the earth falls back on us again and, sinking into the soil, forms springs and wells, and from these it is brought by canals, trunk mains, and ducts to the thirsty populations of our crowded towns. As the river or main pursues its winding course, more and more water is pumped up from deep wells on the route, and so the volume of water increases as it approaches its destination.

At certain periods some of the water is deflected into large storage reservoirs, which keep the supply mains at full pressure in case of drought, or when the primary

source is under supply—or rather under demand!

During the progress of the water towards the towns and cities, samples are frequently taken and forwarded in sealed, sterilized bottles to the laboratories, where they undergo stringent bacterial tests in order to prevent the possibility of contaminated water reaching the public.

Once the water has reached the outskirts of the large town or city, it is subjected to real factory treatment, for, before it is allowed to enter the supply mains, it is pumped, guided and forced through a series of filter beds, and it also has to submit to chemical treatment of various kinds. Then, having survived all this, it disappears from view into the larger trunk mains. But that is not the end of the care that is exercised to ensure that the water coming out of your tap is as it should be. Inspectors are kept busy seeing that the water fittings in your house are of the proper type, and that you do not misuse the water, or work appliances which might contaminate the water, and let it seep back into the mains.

In large cities the water supply system might be compared to the arterial blood streams of the human body. Taking the pumping stations as the heart and the larger trunk mains as the main arteries, the water circulates to the lesser arteries, and so on, eventually passing into the lead pipes which correspond to the capillaries of the human body. And, as the blood helps to dispose of impurities in the body, so does the water help the life and health of the city by providing fire hydrants, street flushing hydrants, etc.

The complicated work of supplying water to meet the needs of the population of such a city as London is rarely appreciated. And there are many people who do not understand why the water has to be brought from so far away. True, the rain pours down just as hard on the cities as on the countryside. But the rain falling on built-up areas is almost entirely lost as far as our water supply is concerned. Most of it, instead of sinking into the ground, falls on roofs or pavings or hard roads and, collecting dust and dirt on its way, it passes into the drains and sewers. The little that reaches the soil is for the greater part absorbed by the existing vegetation. Only a small percentage escapes to find its way according to the strata, and perhaps in the end reach

one of the water supplier wells, to add its quota to the vast volume of water required to supply the city.

And just how vast that volume is can be calculated when one realises that, in our large towns and cities, the water consumption per person per day is reckoned at 28 gallons. This does not, of course, mean that every inhabitant lets 28 gallons of water flow out of his tap daily. Besides that used by him personally, the 28 gallons includes his share of the water used in the service of the public, in street flushing, for example, or for washing out the fish shops!

Twenty-eight gallons of water per day from springs and wells, so many miles away, pumped out of the earth, guided on its long, winding journey to the town, tested, treated and delivered at the house—and what does it cost us? A house of average size, with a family of, say, three, four, or more, pays a rate of ninepence to a shilling a week. If the family is four in a house paying ninepence a week, that comes to less than a shilling for a thousand gallons!

No black market there!

Tottenham, N.17. JOHN A. MUDGE.

Bridge Club Notes

On December 18th, 1948, the Bridge Section of the Club held their Christmas Bridge Party, when twenty-four members of the Club, each with a guest, had a most enjoyable afternoon. There were quite a number of prizes. As to who won the prizes, who cares? The rooms were very suitably decorated, thanks to Mrs. Spurway producing the foliage, and Miss Ibbetson and Mr. Willis, with their co-helpers, doing the artistic arranging of the holly, etc. We were especially delighted to welcome Miss Carter, who presented the prizes, and also Miss Hensley.

NOTE.—All St. Dunstaners interested in bridge (players) please attend the Annual Meeting of the Bridge Section on Saturday, 5th February, at 2.30 p.m.

FRANK A. RHODES.

Young St. Dunstaners

Brenda McIntosh, Dumfries, is now a Queen's Guide—this is the highest award in the movement.

Marriages

Douglas Wylie, Bromley, on November 27th, to Miss Eileen Renny.

Marian Davies, Sandbach, on November 20th, to Mr. John Etherton.

“ In Memory ”

Private Albert Mann, 12th South Wales Borderers

With deep regret we record the death of A. Mann, of Essendine, near Stamford, who served in the 12th South Wales Borderers from July, 1915, until December, 1916.

When he came to St. Dunstan's he was not a young man, but he took up basket-making and right up to the time of his death was interested in this hobby. For a number of years, however, it had been obvious that his health was failing. He was able to visit Brighton last year and thoroughly enjoyed his holiday, but a few months later he was removed to a nursing home where he died on November 22nd.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral. Our very sincere sympathy goes out to his widow.

Corporal Amos Robinson, 1st Royal Fusiliers

It is with deep regret that we record the death on January 1st, of A. Robinson, of Tottenham, N.17.

He was wounded at Loos Wood in September, 1916, and he came to St. Dunstan's two months later, where he trained as a shopkeeper.

He had been ill for some time and was admitted to our Brighton Home but he died shortly afterwards. Many St. Dunstaners and members of the Brighton staff attended the funeral, and among the many flowers was a wreath from the Chairman.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow.

Private William Edward Cairns, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

With deep regret we record the death of W. E. Cairns, of Liversedge.

Although his sight was very severely damaged and he also lost a leg as a result of his service in the 1914-1918 war, he did not come to us until last December. It was then arranged for him to enter West House as a permanent resident, but he had a seizure and he passed away on December 29th in Staincliffe General Hospital.

As the funeral had taken place before we were notified of his death, a wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's comrades was placed on his grave.

He was a widower and our sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Mrs. A. Robinson would like to thank Matron, nurses, orderlies and other St. Dunstaners and their wives who were so kind to her during her husband's illness and when he passed away. She deeply appreciates that, in the midst of their Christmas festivities, they had time to think of her in her trouble.

Births

CAMERON.—On January 2nd, to the wife of R. G. Cameron, of Forest Gate, a son—Robert Murray.

GOODHEAD.—On December 24th, to the wife of R. Goodhead, of Sheffield, a daughter.

JENNINGS.—On December 21st, to the wife of D. Jennings, of Market Harborough, a daughter.

JONES.—On December 24th, to the wife of R. Jones, of Cardiff, a daughter—Carol Elizabeth.

RICHARDS.—On January 3rd, to the wife of E. Richards, of Dudley, Worcs., a son.

Death

GADD.—Our deep sympathy goes out to A. W. Gadd, of Chessington, whose wife passed away on December 31st.

Marriage

BLACKMORE—HARRIS.—On December 27th, P. Blackmore, of Cardiff, to Miss Evelyn Harris.

Tommy Handley

St. Dunstaners everywhere heard with regret of the death of Tommy Handley.

At the funeral, on January 13th, a wreath of poppies was sent bearing the inscription: "Tommy Handley—From the blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's at the Training Centre, the Holiday and Convalescent Homes, and in their homes all over the United Kingdom, in sincere admiration and appreciation of many hours of great enjoyment."

Old Christmas Cards

W. Burtenshaw, of Wimborne, reminds us that the Andrew Davison Christmas Card Industry, Morpeth, Northumberland, would welcome old Christmas cards and calendars. This industry was begun by Andrew Davison, an ex-serviceman who was bedridden for 27 years until his death in 1945, but his work has been carried on. The cards are renovated, and the entire profit goes to help disabled ex-servicemen who are too badly injured to work to augment their pensions.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 358—VOLUME XXXII

FEBRUARY, 1949

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

Sir Ian Fraser—'Flu

There are no Chairman's Notes this month. Sir Ian has been suffering from a severe attack of influenza which has lasted for some time. As a result he had to cancel all his engagements for more than a week.

As we go to press we are glad to report that Sir Ian is back at work again.

Pensions Minister Presents Car to St. Dunstaner

Last month Sir Ian referred in his Notes to the allocation by the Ministry of Pensions of a few free motor cars to severely disabled men, including a small number for St. Dunstaners.

The Minister of Pensions, the Rt. Hon. H. A. Marquand, chose W. H. Harding, of Finsbury Park, to be the first St. Dunstaner recipient, and on February 9th Mr. Marquand personally presented to our St. Dunstaner a Morris Minor car, the first of the model on the road.

Sir Ian Fraser was to have been at the ceremony to express the thanks of St. Dunstaners to Mr. Marquand for the special concession and for his own personal interest, but the doctor would not allow him to leave the house. Sir Ian had, however, already thanked Mr. Marquand in the House of Commons.

It was a happy ceremony. Mr. A. Mackay represented Sir Ian and there were also present other representatives of the Ministry of Pensions and Mr. S. G. Wilson, Managing Director of Messrs. Pawson & Leaf, with

whom Bill Harding has worked as a telephone operator for thirty years. During the little ceremony, Mr. Wilson presented him with a travelling rug as a token of his firm's high appreciation of his services. (Bill lost a leg and two fingers, as well as his sight, in the First World War.)

Mrs. Harding will drive her husband's car, which carried with it also a cheque towards the first quarter's upkeep expenses.

To the Runcton Hall House Party, 1948

On Christmas Eve, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Buckle called at Runcton Hall and presented, on our behalf, the signed letter, a book and a lovely bouquet of red carnations and blue irises. Mrs. Scott was delighted and deeply appreciated this expression of our gratitude.

JIM ELLIS.

(This note was, unfortunately, just too late for the January REVIEW).

Briefly

W. E. Young, of Rowlands Gill, has won a silver cup for singing in a contest arranged by a number of R.A.O.B. Lodges in Northumberland and Durham.

Geoff. Preston has been made President of Addlestone Branch of the British Legion, and Col. M. P. Ansell, President of the Bideford Branch.

George Reed is now Chairman of the Weybridge Branch of Toc H. In a window dressing competition at Weybridge his display received an "honourable mention."

LONDON CLUB NEWS

At the first Central Committee Meeting, P. Ashton was elected Chairman and the following Sub-Committees have been appointed:—

BRIDGE: F. Rhodes, H. Gover, N. Downs.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES: F. G. Fleming, R. Edwards, F. Dickerson.

OUTDOOR SPORTS: T. Gaygan, H. Cook, M. Burns.

INSTITUTE OF MAGICIANS represented by A. Wiltshire.

So we look to these gentlemen to supply us with Fun, Sport and Mystery.

Bridge

The Annual General Meeting of the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club was held at Headquarters on February 5th when, in the absence of Sir Ian Fraser, the chair was taken by Mr. C. D. Wills, recently appointed Chief Accountant of St. Dunstan's.

Each member will have a copy of the Minutes of the meeting and a programme of the year's fixtures.

FRANK A. RHODES (*Capt.*)

Indoor Sports and Amusements

A special fund has been provided to award prizes which will be known as the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prizes. These events will take place annually and will cover Outdoor Sports and Indoor Games and Amusements.

My immediate concern is the Indoor Section which will include Whist, Crib, Dominoes, Darts, Chess and Dancing.

All members interested in any of the above events please write to me: Tiny Fleming, London Club, Headquarters, 191 Marylebone Road, N.W.1. Details of competitions will be announced in this column at a later date.

Watch this column for future announcements.

Outdoor Sports

Walking. The first post-war Road-walking Race will take place at Birmingham on May 7th. Distance, seven miles. Entries must be sent in at once to T. Gaygan at the Club, who will supply full particulars, trainers and escorts, so get some training in and let's see if we cannot turn a good team out.

Gymnasium. I am glad to be able to tell you that the times have been altered to 5.30 to 7.15 p.m. Tuesdays, at the Mayfair

Gymnasium, 204 Great Portland Street, W.1, so now perhaps more fellows will be able to attend and do some health-giving "jerks."

Swimming will start on May 2nd at the Marylebone Baths, Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m. More details in a later issue.

Rowing. The boats on the lake at Regent's Park will be placed at our disposal again this year.

T. GAYGAN.

Magic

A Magic Concert (conjuring, ventriloquism, etc.) will be held at St. Dunstan's Headquarters on Monday, February 28th. Curtain up, 7.45 p.m.

The performance will be given by the tutors of the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians.

Owing to the seating accommodation being limited, it is only possible to admit one escort with each St. Dunstaner.

A. J. WILTSHIRE.

General

A Debating Society is in process of formation and we are looking forward to some interesting play-readings, so we look to you fellows to come along and support your Club.

P. ASHTON.

Birmingham Sports Club

The first post-war Annual Walk—distance about seven miles—will be held on Saturday, May 7th. There will be a Team Race and Individual Race for Totally Blind and S.S. Fifteen entries have already been received.

Will any St. Dunstaners wanting to enter please send me their names as soon as possible. Nobody has had much training so do come along and have a go to get walking started. Escorts will be provided for the Walk.

AVIS SPURWAY,
Holmwood Vicarage,
Nr. Dorking, Surrey.

Placements

S. Edgar, as telephone operator with the Middlesex Executive Council, London, N.W.1.; Alan Hold, as a piano-tuner with Messrs. Godfrey & Co., Ltd., Yeovil.

FOR SALE

B.S.A. all-gents' Tandem, 1938 model. Perfect running condition; hub brakes, new tyres (not crepe). Good-looking machine, black with British markings; chrome handlebars, cream mudguards. Easily controlled by lady taking front seat. Well cared-for and overhauled. Price £25, carriage paid up to 10s.—L. Copeland, 9 Beminster Road, Winton, Bournemouth.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I have read Sir Ian's remarks contained in this month's issue of the REVIEW with great interest.

For my part, an old St. Dunstaner, I am quite content, in fact proud, to remain a St. Dunstaner within our own family of war blinded men and women. As Sir Ian suggests, we have nothing to gain by amalgamation in any shape or form.

A limited degree of co-operation is desirable with such organisations as the British Legion, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association, etc., but definitely no form of absorption for us of St. Dunstan's; it can only mean virtual extinction as a family which so far had gained the admiration of the whole world.

We have no question of efficiency or service, and above all, no politics.

There is only one St. Dunstan's, created by the genius of his day, Sir Arthur Pearson, and successfully carried on by Sir Ian Fraser. I think most St. Dunstaners will agree we have everything to lose by handing ourselves over to a mammoth organisation.

Yours sincerely,

Folkestone. F. C. S. HILLING.

DEAR EDITOR,

I most heartily endorse Sir Ian Fraser's opinion in last month's REVIEW as to the merging of St. Dunstan's with other organisations existing for the benefit of disabled ex-Servicemen and their dependants, and to add my support to that of John Mudge in the current issue. Loss of individuality and the splendid treatment we now receive would inevitably result under what would become an impersonal and soulless combination, under which more money is likely to be wasted than saved.

Also, too much power would be vested in a few officials, which is most undesirable and even dangerous.

Yours sincerely,

Bournemouth. ARTHUR T. BROOKS.

National News-Letter

DEAR EDITOR,

I was interested to see the letter from Charles McIntosh on the subject of the poor paper for the braille "National News-Letter," as for weeks I have felt the same. Thinking it must have been my imagination

I did not write to you. Some weeks my copy is almost unreadable.

Yours sincerely,

Cheltenham.

S. GOBOURN.

DEAR EDITOR,

I definitely agree with the remarks of Charles McIntosh about the "National News-Letter" and sincerely hope that paper of a much better quality will be used in the very near future.

Anything that can be done to effect the desired improvement as early as possible will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

St. Budeaux, Plymouth. C. BLACKETT.

DEAR EDITOR,

In your last issue Charles McIntosh comments on the "National News-Letter." I fully agree with what he says for it is the only paper that I have ever found difficult to read—it has almost beaten me at times.

Yours sincerely,

Shrewsbury.

W. PRICE.

DEAR EDITOR,

With reference to the criticism by Mr. Charles McIntosh in your January issue of the paper used for the braille edition of the "National News-Letter" and his opinion that this periodical ought to be embossed on paper equally good in quality to that used in other braille magazines, may I point out that the paper used for the "National News-Letter" is similar in quality to that used in eighteen other braille periodicals published by the National Institute for the Blind. The quality is not up to pre-war standard but is the best we have been able to obtain under the Paper Control for use in braille periodicals.

We have received from time to time a few criticisms similar to those of Mr. McIntosh, but they have generally been in respect of different periodicals; that is to say, one reader will ask us why we do not use such good paper in the "Braille Radio Times" as in "Progress"; and another will ask why the quality of the paper in "Progress" is inferior to that in the "Braille Radio Times." Of the paper used in some periodicals, for example, "Nuggets," we have received no complaints at all.

I can only conclude, therefore, that the sharpness of the embossed dots is damaged in certain copies of our periodicals by the pressure of heavy parcels or otherwise

during transit. With your correspondent, I give all credit to the postal workers for their extreme care in handling braille packages, but there are obviously many circumstances which are beyond their control, and I do not see how anyone can exempt such circumstances from being the cause of damage to the dots. Nevertheless, whatever the cause, we are fully conscious of the comparative inferiority of the paper we are obliged to use in our periodicals, and shall better its quality directly we are permitted to do so. In view of the forthcoming relaxation of the Paper Control, I may safely add that this general improvement should take place at a not too distant date.

Yours very truly,
J. DE LA MARE ROWLEY,
General Editor,
National Institute for the Blind.

Three Hates

DEAR EDITOR,

Fallowfield's hymn of hate following Floyd's nail-head crack will be echoed in the hearts of many other visitors to West House.

We hate loud-voiced discussion that takes place in a certain top-floor ward till 1 a.m. We hate the bandying of bawdy stories and jokes when men's wives are present. We hate the loud-voiced monopolisation of private conversations. We hate those who stand in groups and "direct" blind men how to avoid them. But above all the "Hates" we would all hate not to be able to come back once a year and mix and play dominoes and dance and chew the fat with others of the same hate group.

Faithfully yours,
Castle Cary. THE MAD HATER.

Funny—But True

One very foggy night an old lady asked me to take her across a rather wide crossing. On arriving safely, she said: "Thank you, young man. You might want someone to help you one day."

Nottingham. G. SWINDELL.

Great-Grandfather

Frazer Reynolds, of Gloucester.

Grandfathers

W. A. Bramson, Bromley (twice in three months); C. B. Baker, Enfield; C. Firth, Heswall; A. W. Hurrell, Kenley.

West House Notes

We welcomed Sir Neville and Lady Pearson to our New Year's party which followed the Christmas nautical theme. Hence all the guests sported various types of sea-going head-gear, most of which were designed and made by our old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Taylor. We danced to Percy Vorley's Band (always so much appreciated) and the novelty dances and competitions were admirably compered by Mr. Bertie Bassett.

One of the highlights of the party was a nautical head-dress competition, which was judged by Lady Pearson. First prize went R. Collins. Hiscock, McFarlane and Tiny Northcott also had prizes. The sick ward lads also entered into the spirit of the thing and there the first prize went to F. Reynolds, the second to T. Miles and the third to J. Keville.

A romantic note was introduced during the evening by the announcement of the engagement of St. Dunstaner G. Kilsby and Miss Westwood, an old friend of West House. Good luck to them both.

Continuing in the nautical manner, beer and hot sausages were served in the galley during the interval. As midnight approached, Daddy Read came on deck dressed as Old Father Time, and very magnificent he looked, but of course he had to be thrown overboard to make way for 1949, who tripped on in the shape of a fairy. This fairy was none other than our ex-Commando, young Ernie Deaville, who caused much mirth especially when he did his little dance.

"Does Professionalism spoil sport?" was the topic for debate on January 9th. This was followed by a musical concert arranged by Miss Molyneux, which was thoroughly appreciated.

On January 16th we were entertained by the Young People of Union Church, who presented "Off the Rails." Miss K. Ashford (ex-V.A.D., West House) was one of the artistes.

On January 24th we all very regretfully said goodbye to nine of the sick ward boys who have been transferred to Ovingdean. They were Daddy Heyes, H. Russell, T. Miles, J. Keville, G. Morecroft, F. Hines, E. Hindle, J. Symonds and Dickie Tooth. They are now well settled in a very bright airy ward and various members of the staff have been to visit them since they have been at Ovingdean.

Princess Eugenie of Greece

Princess Eugenie of Greece, who will be well remembered by the men of Tembani, came to see Sir Ian Fraser in London recently for advice as to the care of Greek blinded soldiers, of whom, she said, there were about one hundred and fifty; so far, very little had been done for them. Although it was not possible for St. Dunstan's to take financial responsibility for the welfare of Greek blinded soldiers, Sir Ian gave the Princess the best advice he could. He also gave her a sample of our new braille machines which are attracting so much attention, and a quarter-hour striking watch of the type which we originally designed for our handless men before we developed the watch which strikes every minute. This will serve as a model which, no doubt, Greek craftsmen will be able to copy. The Princess was very interested in the Talking Book, but Sir Ian explained that the Talking Book machine itself was useless without a most complex and costly organisation for making and handling the records.

If there was a young Greek blinded in the recent war who was capable of becoming a leader or the head of an organisation for the welfare of Greek blinded ex-servicemen, Sir Ian offered to have him over here for a time and show him the various aspects of St. Dunstan's.

Later Princess Eugenie was a most welcome visitor at the Training Centre at Ovingdean, where she spent several hours inspecting the various departments and meeting the trainees.

Ovingdean Notes

Dormitory I has been converted into Ward I and we are happy to have with us St. Dunstaners from West House Sick Bay, with Nurse Harvey.

On Saturday, January 10th, still in a holiday spirit, a party of trainees set out to spend the afternoon and evening at Rustington, and were entertained by a very fine pantomime followed by a dance. More entertainment has been arranged for Sundays this term. On the 7th, Mr. Wier gave a gramophone recital from his very fine selection of records, and since then there has been a quiz, a play-reading and a brains trust, which have been most successful and much appreciated by the "stay-at-homes."

Mr. Cheeseman's Buffet Dance took place on January 27th at the Arlington. He arranged for Miss Doreen Dean, soprano, Mr. Tom Jones, baritone, and Mr. Edward King, accompanist, to entertain, and their presence greatly added to the enjoyment of the evening.

The debate, on January 10th, "that women are abject slaves to fashion," was extremely amusing, but no personal remarks were made! The voting was against the motion and it was pointed out that men are also followers of fashion. We ourselves have been able to provide two excellent lectures this month. "Dingle" Bell gave a very interesting talk on the intelligence of animals, and on January 20th, Commandant gave an account of a Naval encounter off Madagascar, which was most entertaining and interesting. It revealed an aspect of a theatre of war of which most people have heard little.

On January 26th, the Ovingdean Darts Team entertained members of the Fletching British Legion in the Music Hut, where darts and cribbage were also played.

Shooting. In the knock-out competition this month in which fifty-one entered, E. Crook was the winner with 43 points and J. W. Mahony the runner-up with 42 points.

Shooting matches have been arranged this month with the following results:—

	Points
Harrington Rifle Club	225
St. Dunstan's	228
Brighton and Hove Constabulary	225
St. Dunstan's	216

Test Results

for December, 1948, and January, 1949:

Preliminary—D. Beattie (Australian), J. Ormond, R. Briggs.

Writing—V. Reeves.

Senior—S. McCheyne, P. S. Sumner.

Typing—E. Eagle (Australian), J. Slee, J. Blakeley, S. Minter, K. Farrar (Australian) W. Fitzgerald, J. S. Davies, R. Borrie (Australian), L. Loach, W. Jones (Australian), H. Duxbury, G. Smart, G. Emerson.

Australian News

In a letter to Sir Ian, T. H. Ward, of Brisbane, writes: "My daughter was married on January 8th. My elder boy has two children, a boy and a girl, so now we have only one son at home." He recently flew to Adelaide and saw Alan Marshall.

Blackpool Notes

The time has come—the Walrus said—the time to get our news into the pages of the REVIEW.

We are frequently asked why the Blackpool Home is so seldom mentioned in despatches. The explanation is that all news should reach the Editor not later than the sixth of the month. That date comes round so quickly we are—unlike good Scouts—not prepared.

If not too late we should like you to know that the Festive Season at the Blackpool Home was spent mainly eating, drinking and making merry.

It was late when our own party got under way owing to the delay caused by some of the staff being called upon to visit the Bourne Hotel to judge their fancy dresses. However we made up for that by dancing until well after midnight. We had a party on the evening of Boxing Day, during which the "Pearly King" arrived with his piano accordion and led a march round the house. It was odd that the "Pearly King" should remind us of Father Christmas—and Father Christmas of our good friend Billy Parnell—or was it?

On Tuesday to the Grand Theatre as the guests of the Soroptimists, to see "Captain Brassbound's Conversion," an excellent show enjoyed by all. On Wednesday a party went to a dance at the Dean Street Hall, and Thursday to the Palace of Variety.

We had the usual party to end the Old and greet the New Years. After midnight the "first footers" were Tommy Milner and Billy Pratt, representing northern and southern areas, but we are still wondering if young Arfur Dakin, son of a local St. Dunstaner, did not beat them to it in his anxiety to get in from the chilly night.

We are now making more contacts with local hotels and organisations and have enjoyed happy hours as the guests of Seaford Hotel on January 4th, St. George's Hotel on January 7th, and the Ministry of Pensions at the Baronial Hall on Jan. 20th. At each of these we had dinner and dance with plenty of liquid refreshments to suit all palates. All three promise to be annual affairs—joys to anticipate and to remind us of the good old days of our youth.

Many will be pleased to know that Mrs. Malone has sent a photograph of the Memorial Picture now in West House chapel—Memorial to our beloved late Matrons. When suitably framed it will be

hung in the lounge. Unfortunately the Home is too small for us to have a chapel, but we manage to have very beautiful services of Remembrance in the lounge on such special occasions as Armistice Day—November 11th—and December 9th. WALRUS.

Talking Book Library

January Jottings

After last month's full bag, as might have been expected, there are but two additions this time. One of the two, "The Use of History," I find very difficult to categorise, but suggest that it is very nearly in the text-book category. The other one, "Cook and the Opening of the Pacific," is a good straightforward biography.

"Cook and the Opening of the Pacific," by J. A. Williams, read Duncan Carse, is an interesting story of the great navigator from boyhood until death. The prejudices he had to overcome to get his discovery ships built as he judged fitting, give the intriguing eighteenth-century background to the story. It is a good book and easy to read.

"The Use of History," by A. L. Rowse, read Richard Wessell, is not a book I can recommend to the average reader, because I believe that ninety per cent. of readers would find it unintelligible. Unless one is conversant with the historians of the last 200 years and, in addition, knows the policies and weaknesses of each one of them, then the first half of the book flies as high over one's head as it did over mine. Undoubtedly, history has a use, in fact several, but the language of this book successfully covers them up as far as I am concerned. My warning is simply avoid this book unless you wish for highly concentrated reading. Hmm! I wonder! The Use of History—Cromwell, who dealt ruthlessly with the Irish challenge, might be a good thing for the Grand National. NELSON.

NATIONAL LAYING TEST

Report for the Third Period of four weeks—December 6th, 1948, to January 2nd, 1949:

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Bagwell, Philip	259
2	Webb, William	223
3	Gregory, T. D.	206
4	Young, W. E.	180
5	Woodcock, W. J.	162
6	Chaffin, Albert	157
7	MacIntosh, Charles	153
8	Jarvis, Albert	152
9	Holmes, Percy	140
10	Clarke, T.	120
11	Smith, W. Alan	81
12	Carpenter, E. H.	80

Average per bird to date, 28.07

Obituary

Miss Marion Pearson

It is with deep regret that we have learnt this month of the deaths of three old friends whose connection with St. Dunstan's dated from the 1918 days.

Miss Marion Pearson, sister of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, died on January 23rd. Miss Pearson had always shown the keenest interest in her brother's work for war-blinded Servicemen and when West House was opened in 1918, she became its first Matron; her strong personality will be well remembered by St. Dunstaners of those days. Miss Pearson retired from St. Dunstan's in the early 1920s owing to ill-health, and for many years she made her home at Brighton, where she still followed the activities of St. Dunstaners with the greatest interest and pleasure. Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral at the Downs Crematorium, and there were present also Lady Pearson, Lady Fraser, Matron Pain and Mr. Askew, and a number of St. Dunstaners who had known Miss Pearson at West House.

The Ven. E. N. Sharpe

The Ven. E. N. Sharpe died on January 20th at the age of eighty-one. As Rector of the Church of Holy Trinity, St. Marylebone, he became known to many St. Dunstaners and officiated at scores of marriages and christenings. He became our Honorary Chaplain and when, in 1930, he was appointed Archdeacon of London, an office he was to hold for seventeen years, his interest in St. Dunstan's continued. At our invitation he joined our Executive Council and regularly attended its meetings.

Lady (Arthur) Pearson, Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, and Mr. Askew were present at a Memorial Service which was held at St. Paul's Cathedral on February 4th.

Mr. Maurice Macauley

Irish St. Dunstaners in particular will hear with deep regret of the death of Mr. Maurice Macauley, brother of Mr. Norman Macauley. Maurice Macauley was our After-Care Representative in Ireland for a number of years, and his likeable personality endeared him to all the Irishmen with whom he came in contact. When, in 1925, he decided to take up law, we took our leave of him with regret. His brother, Norman, however, took over from him,

and it is to him now that we offer our sincerest sympathy in his sorrow. St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral by a number of Northern Ireland men who had known him, and a wreath "in affectionate remembrance and appreciation" was sent from the Irish ex-Servicemen of St. Dunstan's and from the Chairman and Council.

Births

LITTLE.—On January 29th, to the wife of A. Little, of Brampton (trainee), a daughter—Margaret Elaine.

ORANGE.—On January 13th, to the wife of W. Orange, of Leeds, a son—Keith James.

THOMAS.—On November 13th, to the wife of W. Thomas, of Saltdean, a daughter—Marilyn.

WATKINS.—On January 23rd, to the wife of D. Watkins (South African), of Aston Clinton, a son—John Andrew.

Marriages

BOND—STOPPS.—On January 1st, W. G. Bond, of Ontario, to Miss Sybil Stopps. MCGOOHAN—DAVISON.—On October 25th, D. McGoochan, of Watford, to Miss Mary Davison.

PYE—OLDHAM.—On December 24th, H. Pye, of Preston, to Miss Joan Oldham.

ROSLEIGH (ROSENBERG)—WOLOZYNSKA.—On January 27th, in Sydney, New South Wales, Dr. Ludwik Rosleigh (Rosenberg) to Dr. Pelagia Wolozyńska.

"In Gratitude"

*By no means of poetic mind,
Some words I'll strive to find,
In thankfulness to those so kind,
Who work to give us peace of mind.*

*They work by day, they work by night,
To help us fight and see the light,
And in the future dawning bright,
We'll start again with new delight.*

*So with our strength and souls renewed,
We shall not ever be subdued
By anxious thought and brooding mood,
And in our thoughtful hearts imbued,
Give thanks to those who played their part,
To give us all another start.*

TREVOR BAKER,
St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean.

“ In Memory ”

Sapper John Hastings, *Royal Engineers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Hastings, of Rhyl.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1926, and although he was not able to do a great deal of any kind of work, suffering greatly from rheumatism, he was keenly interested in basket-making and wool rugs, and he managed to do a certain amount of work right up to the end of 1947. He had, however, been ill for some time before his death, which occurred at his home on December 23rd.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family and to Mrs. Walton who nursed him in his last illness.

Driver Henry Hayes, *Royal Field Artillery*

With deep regret we announce the death of H. Hayes, of Ballincollig, Co. Cork.

His Army service began in August, 1914. He was wounded at Armentieres as a result of which he lost his sight and his left arm, and he came to us in August, 1915. Although he was not able to undertake really heavy work he was interested always in poultry-keeping and netting, and he carried on with the latter, in spite of poor health, right up to November last.

The funeral took place at St. Finbarr's Cemetery, P. Long, of Ballincollig, representing St. Dunstan's. The great affection in which he was held was shown by the large attendance at the funeral, everyone in the village attending to pay their tribute.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Hayes and her family.

Gunner William Last, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Last, of Crynant, Neath.

After he had lost his sight at Malta, he entered St. Dunstan's in 1919 and trained as a mat-maker. He proved a very quick and energetic worker and was interested also in a little poultry-keeping.

For a number of years before his death, he could not attempt any heavy work, and he passed away in the West Glamorgan Hospital on January 12th after much suffering.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the many flowers.

He leaves a widow and family to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

Private Arthur Massey, *2nd Scottish Borderers*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of A. Massey, of Reading.

He was discharged from the Army in 1915, but it was not until eleven years later that he came to St. Dunstan's, where he trained as a mat-maker. For a long time he had suffered very poor health. He was admitted to West House, but he passed away there on February 9th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades was among the many flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and grown-up family.

Private Frederick Pullen, *5th King's Hussars*

We have to record with deep regret the death of F. Pullen, of Old Woking.

This fine old soldier enlisted in August, 1905, and served mainly in Africa and India before the First World War, in which he was gassed and blown up. He was discharged from the Army in 1919 and came to St. Dunstan's in November, 1933, and was trained as a poultry farmer, but he had been ill for a long while and he passed away on January 30th.

Among the many floral tributes was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Pullen and her family.

Private James Philip Smith, *Royal Defence Corps*

With deep regret we have to announce the death of J. P. Smith, of Enfield.

He was discharged from the Army in 1919, but did not come under our care until 1938, when he was trained as a basket-maker. He had, however, been in failing health for some time, due to the after-effects of gas-poisoning and other causes. He was very plucky in trying to disregard his handicaps and was working at his baskets until a week before his death, which occurred on February 10th.

C. P. Baker, of Enfield, a St. Dunstaner friend, was present at the funeral. Sir Ian's wreath of poppies was on the coffin.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and daughter.

Death

DAVIES.—Our deep sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. J. Davies, of Wrexham, whose daughter, Daisy, died on February 1st.

Dick Barton

Duncan Carse, well known to all Talking Book readers, is the B.B.C.'s new “ Dick Barton.”

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I was pleased to read in last month's REVIEW that two Second War St. Dunstaners had been elected to positions as Branch Officials in the British Legion. There are, of course, many others of both generations whom we read about from time to time taking an active part. This is a good public service which I commend to St. Dunstaners; they can give help where it is needed and they will themselves gain friends and interest. They can also lend a hand in furthering the British Legion's national pensions campaign which should win the active support of every disabled ex-Serviceman.

This campaign has not attained its main objective, which is a rise in the basic rate, but there have been valuable by-products, notably in the raising of the unemployability allowance and in a warmer attitude on the part of the Ministry towards individual claims.

Within the last month, I have attended three Area Conferences of the British Legion, namely, London, the Midlands and the North West. Judging by the resolutions passed and the speeches made, the campaign has the unanimous support of the rank and file of the Legion and we shall, no doubt, hear more about it at the Annual Conference at Whitsun. Meantime, it has become a national campaign for ten other societies for ex-Servicemen have joined us. A further move will be made shortly when a deputation representing these national societies will wait on the Minister of Pensions to press the case on him. A most valuable debate took place in the House of Lords on December 9th and a further debate will probably take place in the Commons within the next few weeks.

The Government have so far refused a rise in the basic rate or even the more modest suggestion that a Select Committee should be set up but the ex-Service world will not take "no" for an answer and the campaign will go on.

While criticism of the Government on this matter is inevitable, we confine it to the campaign itself, for the ex-Service organisations are composed of men of all political parties and we are attacking the Government on our own purely domestic issue and not on any political ground. So far as St. Dunstan's is concerned, we support the British Legion campaign whole-heartedly, and Mr. Askew goes to the national meeting to represent us. Meantime, as I said in a brief word of welcome to the Minister of Pensions, the Rt. Hon. Hilary Marquand, when he visited Ovingdean recently, there is a wide field in which we welcome the co-operation of his department whose officials, medical and administrative, do their best for us within the terms of the policy that is laid down for them.

I cannot forecast results, but it frequently takes a long time to bring a campaign to a successful conclusion. Let us remember in this connection our experience during the war when although we lost many battles, the struggle ended in victory for our cause. Within

the next twelve or fifteen months, there must be a General Election; that is a time when all politicians are rightly more sensitive than ever about public opinion, so we must make sure that the widest possible public support for our claims is encouraged and mobilised.

IAN FRASER.

Minister of Pensions Visits St. Dunstan's

On February 23rd, the Minister of Pensions, the Rt. Hon. H. A. Marquand, visited St. Dunstan's Training Centre at Ovingdean. Mr. Marquand, who was accompanied by Mrs. Marquand, closely inspected every feature of our Training Centre and at the conclusion of his tour expressed his tremendous admiration for the work which he had seen and for our "lovely, modern, airy building."

Mr. Marquand was accompanied on his tour of the building by our President, Sir Neville Pearson, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, Mr. Askew, Commandant Fawcett and Matron Pain. The Minister's party included, in addition to Mrs. Marquand, Dr. F. T. Rees, Deputy Director-General of Medical Services, Dr. R. Guy Buxton, Medical Officer responsible for Welfare, Mr. Hervey Rhodes, D.F.C., M.P., the Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary, and Mr. A. O. Woodgate, O.B.E., the Minister's Private Secretary.

Mr. Marquand has since written to Sir Ian expressing his pleasure at his visit "of which I will retain very happy recollections," and conveying his thanks to all those who had made his visit such an interesting and pleasant one.

Ray "Has a Go"

Ray Sherriff and his wife took part in Wilfred Pickles' popular show, "Have a Go," which came from Hemel Hempstead, on February 23rd. They told how they met at Church Stretton when Edith, his wife, was an escort there. To everybody's delight, and particularly to Wilfred Pickles, who said it gave him more pleasure than any he had presented before, Ray and his wife also won the "jack-pot."

Grandfathers

S. Waddington, of Beeston, Notts., at the early age of 42; A. J. Coleman, of Northampton; J. Greaves, of Oldham; A. Morris, Pontypridd; and J. B. Hart, of Cardiff, whose little grandchild arrived on September 16th. We much regret the delay in reporting this.

When You Vote

Within the next few months, county council elections, borough council elections, and urban and district council elections will be held all over the country.

St. Dunstaners are once again reminded that under the Blind Voters Act, which was introduced into Parliament by Sir Ian Fraser, a blind voter may either

- (a) Take to the polling booth a companion, who may be any other person having a vote in the constituency or ward, or his or her father, mother, wife or husband, brother or sister, son or daughter, such persons being 21 years of age, to mark the ballot paper; or
- (b) Ask the presiding officer to mark the ballot paper in the presence of representatives of the candidates, as was the case before the law came into force in 1934.

If the blind person wishes to use the first method, he must tell the presiding officer that he is blind and that he has brought a companion to mark his paper. The companion must then fill in and sign a simple declaration which will be given to him by the presiding officer. This declaration merely states whom the companion is, and that he will keep his knowledge of the vote secret.

Portrait of Sir Ian Fraser

Many requests have been received from St. Dunstaners for a printed reproduction of the portrait painted by Mr. Edward Seago, R.A., and presented to Sir Ian Fraser on his anniversary of twenty-five years as Chairman of St. Dunstan's.

The "Illustrated London News" have produced a reproduction of the portrait and copies are being sent to all St. Dunstaners.

Nellie Wallace

Nellie Wallace, the comedienne, left £8,439, to be divided equally between St. Dunstan's, the Royal Cancer Hospital and the R.S.P.C.A.

Club News

London

Our Club at Headquarters is well patronised but we would like to see more new-war St. Dunstaners attending. They will find a welcome, and willing helpers to cater for their entertainment.

Indoor Sports and Amusements

1. A Get-Together Dance will be held at the Chelsea Town Hall, Chenil Galleries, on Friday, April 1st. Dancing 7.30 to 11 p.m. to our own Ernie Cookson's Band. Spot prizes, fully licensed bar, refreshments. Admission 2s. 6d. Within three minutes of Sloane Square station. Buses 11, 19, 22 pass the door. Tickets will be sent on application. A real chance to practise for forthcoming Dance competitions.

2. Closing date for Darts and Dominoes is March 30th.

The Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize competitions are in the nature of All-England affairs.

It would be appreciated if any would-be entrant for any competition would contact the nearest Club or House which he would then represent.

Any member who is not within a reasonable distance of any Club or House please send their entries to "Tiny" Fleming. All competitions are annual affairs, trophies being retained by successful House or Club for twelve months. The actual winner will, of course, retain the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize as his own property.

A *Darts League* is being formed (partners), St. Dunstaner and escort (lady). Entries as soon as possible please—we want to get cracking.

A darts team from the Club visited the Peterborough Arms, Fulham, on Friday, March 4th, at the invitation of the Shell Wharfe Social Club and a very enjoyable evening was spent by all. Our team lost a very close match by two games to one, A. Wiltshire equalling the highest score of the evening by getting a ton (100).

Amateur Dramatics. We should like to receive the name of any member who is interested. If numbers warrant, we will endeavour to carry it through.

Outdoor Sports

A *General Sports Day* will be held on Saturday, July 23rd, at the Alperton Lane Sports Ground, Wembley, when there will be events for wives and children as well as

St. Dunstaners, and special events for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies.

There will be a *Swimming Gala* at the Marylebone Baths on September 23rd, with races for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies. Don't forget, swimming starts on May 2nd. Bring your own costumes.

It is also hoped to hold a *Regatta* at Marlow in July with double sculls and single sculls, so will oarsmen get together. Boats will be available for training on the lake at Regent's Park.

Institute of Magicians

On February 28th the Tutors to the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians gave an astounding performance of conjuring, ventriloquism, etc. We are sure they excelled themselves knowing full well that there were a number of lynx-eyed and plastic-eyed critics in the audience. We would welcome more St. Dunstaners to this section, where they will find it all most entertaining.

General

On March 29th there will be a play-reading arranged by M. Burns at the Club, 6.30 to 7.30. The play will be "Dark Brown." It will be followed by the usual Whist Drive.

Birmingham

The Birmingham Club flourishes. Quite a number of the younger men are turning up regularly and our average attendance is increasing. The Swimming Section is a great success and the Birmingham Leander Swimming Club is most hospitable and a great help. Leslie Fensome is to be congratulated on learning to swim in five lessons.

We held two Christmas parties, one for the children of members and the other a Dance and Social to which we invited a number of our very good friends of the Red Cross, V.T.S., Limbless Club, Ex-Captives, etc.

We extend a hearty invitation to all Birmingham and district men to join us. Second Sunday in the month is our Club Day. We meet at Red Cross Headquarters, 16 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

The closing date for entries for the Seven-Mile Walk on May 7th is Thursday, April 7th. They should be sent to Mrs. Spurway. We want just three more entries from the North of England to make up a team. Come on, the North!

Monty Brooke

Many of our St. Dunstaners will remember Monty Brooke in the Sports Section many years ago, and will hear with regret that he has had to retire from St. Dunstan's service as a result of ill-health. Several St. Dunstaners have said they would like to join in a tribute to Monty. If any of his old St. Dunstaner friends would like to do so, Mr. Askew has kindly consented to act as hon. treasurer and subscriptions can be sent to him.

Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

With the large wave of crime spreading over the country among young people, I decided to try to do something about it, and suggested to the local Padre a Club for local boys and girls. Father Manning started the first Girls' Club which has been a success, but it was the Boys' Club which was the problem—how to build without money or permits. Well, the Vincent de Paul, a brotherhood which looks after the poor and sick, irrespective of sect or colour, set to work with the help of the British Legion and now we have two rooms for our Boys' Club. But here is where the boys of St. Dunstan's come in. Will you turn your cupboards out and help by sending old sports gear, or unwanted indoor games, or even old clothes? Or if you haven't anything, will you send a sixpenny P.O. to Father Manning and crossed? If things are too good to give away, tell me how much you want for them and I will refund the carriage. I have just heard from Father Manning that there is to be a "Darby and Joan" Club for the Aged, so you see, boys and girls, how I need your help.

Please do your best for the kiddies and the old folks.

The best of luck and health to you all,
from your old pal,

Little Tufnell,

DICKIE DUNN.

Witten Road, Canvey Island, Benfleet.

★ ★ ★

We have received letters from W. Robbins, of Bournemouth, and W. Kerr, of Edinburgh, supporting C. McIntosh's remarks on the quality of the braille paper of the "National News Letter." Mr. J. de la Mare Rowley, General Editor of the National Institute for the Blind, answered this criticism last month.

West House Notes

Unfortunately, most of our visitors at the moment are recuperating after a bout of bronchitis or 'flu, but nevertheless they are still the same happy crowd. We have had quite sunny weather and this has been an excuse for the racing fans to get away to an early start at Plumpton on the 21st and for an enjoyable drive to Alfriston on the 25th. Indeed, it was warm enough for some of the boys to sit on the sea-front; even Daddy Reynolds, who saw his 82nd birthday on the 7th of the month, ventured forth to do some sunbathing.

The Black Lion, Patcham, has seen quite a lot of our lads this month. The South-down and Brighton District Omnibus Company held their Annual Dinner and Dance there on the 4th, and as usual their efforts were so much appreciated by the boys.

Then again, on the 18th, the British Legion, Burgess Hill Branch, invited four of our men to their Annual Dinner. Our boys seem to have a tremendous capacity for enjoying themselves and their hosts are always so hospitable.

Lady Jessica Forbes held a most successful birthday party at her Regent's Park home on the 9th; it was a double event as both Mark Sheridan and Lady Forbes have birthdays in February. Mark, then, was the guest of honour and four of the staff and eight other men went up to town. It really was a happy gathering and everyone was delighted to meet and be entertained by Jack Warner and his musical friend, Mr. R. Alderson.

St. Valentine's Night was not overlooked and on the 14th the Lounge was duly decorated with hearts and other appropriate emblems. The dance was a great success and some novel games were organised by our new Catering Officer, Miss Galloway.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," March, 1919:

"Miss Ella Shields and Alfredo were included in the programme of the concert which was held at the House on February 27th. The former created great enthusiasm by singing some of her old favourites, amongst which was "Gilbert the Filbert." The latter gave a wonderful exhibition of violin playing."

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Swanton, Lockerbie, January 9th; Mr. and Mrs. E. Garthwaite, Rotherham, February 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. J. Peel, Wibsey, March 10th.

Talking Book Library

Fruitful February

The four books released in the second month of this year of "sweet" abundance are an interesting batch, consisting of "The Art of Adventure," "Nanking Road," "In a Glass Darkly," and "Without a Dream."

"The Art of Adventure," by Eric Linklater, read Franklin Engleman, is a collection of stories of the author's wartime journeys, and his reflections and encounters on those trips. Pleasantly written, well read and recorded.

"Nanking Road," by Vicki Baum, read Richard Wessell, is a pre-war best-seller. The book starts at the dropping of the first bomb on the International Settlement, Shanghai. Nine fatal casualties were caused and the author proceeds to show the life each has led. All very real and no punches noticeably pulled. Good in all respects.

"In a Glass Darkly," by S. L. Fanu, read Duncan Carse, is as "creepy as 'ell." The talking book is most suitable for this supernatural stuff. I practically scared myself stiff with this one. The question is, "Can a blind man see ghosts?" It is a good one of its kind, but avoid it if you have a tricky heart.

"Without a Dream," by Michael Dawson, read Richard Wessell, is a somewhat misleading title. "John Carson—Special Agent," might serve better. Of course, in the Peninsular War, the Spanish guerrillas had to be organised and with a little luck, love and seamanship, John Carson, naval lieutenant, defies all the Frenchmen in Spain without Jock or Snowy. Others than Mr. Morrison can and will enjoy this offering.

Don't forget to change the needle!

NELSON.

Country Life

Owing to the falling-off in the number of men who desire and are suitable for Country Life settlement, the Training Farm at South Mimms will close down after Easter. Alternative arrangements for individual cases will be made with Plumpton Agricultural College.

To All Campers

A meeting to discuss plans for summer camps will be held at St. Dunstan's Club, 191 Marylebone Road, on Thursday, April 7th, at 7 p.m. Let me know if you can come because of catering.

Our invitation to the Royal Navy Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, Gosport, Hants, has just come—Friday, August 5th to Saturday, August 13th—entries as soon as possible, please. This fixture is so popular and the Navy such wonderful hosts that it is unlikely that there will be enough beds to go round.

It is, therefore, good to be able to announce another invitation—from the Royal Air Force, to spend a week at Shawbury, near Shrewsbury, provided the Barracks are completed. There seems every chance of this. The date will be Friday, July 8th to Saturday, July 16th. I hope this Camp will appeal to men who trained at Church Stretton and to anyone who likes rowing. Being in the north it should suit men from that area better than Hampshire. Only 35 beds available. If you are interested, write to me at once.

Holmwood Vicarage, AVIS SPURWAY.
Dorking.

Presentation to Miss Oliphant

On February 24th, at a little gathering at the Berkeley Cafe, Bristol, Miss D. J. Oliphant was presented with a cheque on her retirement as Welfare Visitor for the West of England and, at one time, South Wales.

Harry Perrett was in the chair and presented the cheque on behalf of all St. Dunstaners in the West Country and South Wales. The luncheon was attended by a representative St. Dunstaner from each of the counties in the West except Cornwall, which was not able to send a representative in view of the long journey in uncertain weather. South Wales was represented by A. J. Caple, of Cardiff, and many men living in Bristol and its environs were also present.

Each of the county representatives paid tribute to Miss Oliphant's work and Mr. A. Mackay spoke on behalf of St. Dunstan's Headquarters. A telegram of good wishes was received from Mr. Ottaway with whom Miss Oliphant worked for many years, and Mrs. Caple spoke very charmingly on behalf of the ladies present.

Ovingdean Notes

We were very pleased to welcome the Minister of Pensions, the Rt. Hon. H. A. Marquand, and Mrs. Marquand and members of the Ministry of Pensions staff to Ovingdean on February 23rd, and let them see what St. Dunstaners were doing.

On February 2nd, Wing Commander Curtis-Willson gave a most interesting and enlightening talk on "Behind the scenes in a Newspaper Office," which makes one much more appreciative of one's daily paper. Dr. Swinton, from the Natural History Section of the British Museum, visited us again on February 17th to give another talk, this time on "Apes and Man"; there was a record attendance and his next lecture is much looked forward to. Ted Bullen, an Australian trainee, gave a very entertaining lecture on "Discovering Gold"—from practical experiences.

The debate on February 7th that "It is better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all," was ably moved by "Dingle" Bell, and seconded by Miss Carlton, and opposed by Miss McAndrew, who was supported by Commandant; this was most amusing, and the majority voted for the motion.

The Southdown Omnibus Company gave their Annual Dinner and Dance on February 3rd at the Black Lion Hotel, Patcham. After a very good dinner, the chairs and tables were quickly removed and dancing took place until late in the evening.

Another visit to Rustington on February 12th was greatly enjoyed. Once again the local inhabitants acted as hosts and invited the men to tea in their homes, and later in the evening everyone met at the Village Hall for a dance.

Mr. Cheesman, from London, gave one of his ever-popular monthly Buffet Dances at the Arlington Hotel on the 17th.

Shooting

There were fifty-five entries for this month's knock-out competition, which was won by Kel Gatrell, who scored 45 against his opponent, Jim Griffiths' 40 in the final. The monthly Inter-Dormitory competition was won by Dormitory 5, who scored 186 points against Dormitory 4's 185 in the final. During this month's competitions, Steve Minter put up a fine record by firing five shots in 39 seconds and scoring 49 points out of a possible 50.

Darts

On Wednesday, February 23rd, a party from the N.I.B., Hastings, with two or three St. Dunstaners from Hastings, was entertained by the Ovingdean Darts team. Darts, dominoes and cribbage were played and Ovingdean won. The evening was a great success and we look forward to further visits from our N.I.B. friends. Matron Pain was with us, welcoming all the visitors personally. Credit is due to Albert Dobson, who has done and is doing a great deal to help the N.I.B. organise similar evenings.

The Totally Blind competition (knock-out), with 16 entrants, was won by "Rosie" Roswarne, with Bill Gray as runner-up. The S.S. competition had 22 entrants and was won by George Emerson with Harold Dickinson as runner-up.

Test Results

Typing.—Squadron-Leader A. F. Bell, W. Gray (Australian), E. Bullen (Australian), T. Charlesworth (Australian), A. Shepherd, C. Fraser, J. Griffiths, G. Clarkson, P. Appleby.

Moon.—A. Young.

Preliminary.—G. Jacobs.

Senior.—J. Clyde.

Retirement of Major Cowley

Every St. Dunstaner who has travelled to the North knows Major C. J. Cowley, Station-master at Crewe Station for many years. Major Cowley recently retired and on February 10th, Sir Francis Joseph made a presentation to him which he had organised by subscription and which carried with it deep appreciation of Major Cowley's years of service.

Matron Vaughan-Davies was invited by Sir Francis to be present at the ceremony. She accepted, and found herself the only woman present in a gathering of some fifty men. However, as she told her hearers in a very happy little speech, she was there as the representative of hundreds of men—St. Dunstan's men of both wars who at one time or another had passed through Major Cowley's hands, and who had received un-failing kindness from him over many years.

St. Dunstaners everywhere will wish Major Cowley good luck and happiness in his retirement.

Placement

J. Clyde, as telephone operator with the South Eastern Electricity Board, Epsom.

Food Parcels

We shall shortly be receiving a number of gift food parcels from the Buenos Aires Committee in the Argentine and arrangements will be made for one parcel to be sent to every St. Dunstaner living in his own home, lodgings, etc. We shall not have sufficient to send to men who are at the Training Centre or in one of our Homes or Hostels, but it is felt that these St. Dunstaners already benefit from many gifts sent to our Establishments as a whole. No definite date can be given for the arrival of these parcels but we hope that they will all be distributed during the Spring.

ALEX. MACKAY,
Welfare Superintendent.

"E. W. Austin" Memorial Reading Competition

We have received from the National Library for the Blind particulars of the above Reading Competition to be held at the Library on Saturday, May 21st. The Adult Section includes three Classes: (a) Advanced readers in competition for the "Blanesburgh" Cup; (b) Other readers; and (c) Readers who have learnt to read braille after the age of 16 and do not feel competent to enter in Classes A and B. Unseen passages will be read and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression.

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, not later than Tuesday, May 10th. St. Dunstaners and particularly beginners in braille, will be especially welcome to the competition.

Briefly

T. A. Barton, of Scalby, Scarborough, a dog-breeder, has won three more Cups with one of his bitches.

S. Tutton, of Hawthorn, who is doing well at his bench, had his photograph in the *Western Mail* recently when a member of the Government visited the factory.

Young St. Dunstaners

Margaret Joan Stobie, South Africa, has secured a double-first in English and Psychology at Maritzburg University and is to be Acting Professor of Psychology at the University whilst the Professor is on six months' leave. She is not yet 21.

Marriages

Jean McDonald, Glasgow, to Mr. W. S. McNicholl.

Evelyn Stibbles, Pitlochry, on March 5th, to Mr. George May.

Last November, John Morris, West Gorton, Manchester.

Births

CONSTABLE.—On February 17th, to the wife of L. P. H. J. Constable, of Sidcup, a daughter—Ann Rossalind.

COWAN.—On March 1st, to the wife of J. Cowan, of Leicester, a son—Stuart Ian.

EVANS.—On February 11th, to the wife of R. Evans, of Newbury, a son—David Robert.

HEWETT.—On December 16th, to the wife of G. Hewett, of Saltdean Mount, a son—Michael George.

LEGGE.—On March 4th, to the wife of J. Legge, of Bristol, a son—Ian James.

O'REILLY.—On February 10th, to the wife of T. O'Reilly, of Blackburn, a daughter.

PERFECT.—On February 12th, to the wife of J. Perfect, of Sunderland, a son—David Maxwell.

ROAKE.—On March 1st, to the wife of G. Roake, of Catford, a daughter—Janet Elaine.

WHYTE.—On February 25th, to the wife of F. Whyte, of Motherwell, a daughter—Ann.

WIGGLESWORTH.—On February 17th, to the wife of A. Wigglesworth, of Bradford, a daughter.

Marriages

COOK.—On January 1st, C. Cook, of Kingston-on-Thames.

HAMILTON—JOHNSON.—On February 14th, B. Hamilton, of Thetford, to Miss Johnson.

KEY—POWELL.—On January 29th, A. Key, of Brighton, to Mrs. Grace Isobella Powell.

STOCKWELL.—On December 18th, C. Stockwell, of Brighton.

Death

GIBBINS.—Our deep sympathy goes out to T. L. Gibbins, of Kington, Warwickshire, whose wife passed away on January 7th.

“ In Memory ”

Driver James McAlonan, *Royal Army Service Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of J. McAlonan, of Blackpool, who served from February, 1916, to September, 1917. He had been wounded in 1916, as a result of which he lost his sight and his health also was greatly impaired, and for a considerable number of years he had been more or less a permanent resident at one of our Homes as a chair case.

On July 19th he expressed a wish to go to his own home for a change. This he did, and we were actually arranging for him to return to the Sick Ward, Ovingdean, when his death occurred unexpectedly on January 25th.

He was buried at Carleton Cemetery, Blackpool, in a little plot set aside for St. Dunstaners, and a wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the many flowers. Matron Vaughan Davies accompanied J. Treby to represent St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. McAlonan and her family.

Private Thomas Bowen, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of T. Bowen, of Llanelly.

His Army service was from January, 1915, until May, 1916—he lost his sight as a result of service in the Dardanelles—and he came to us in November, 1919, where, although he was then a sick man, he endeavoured to master boot-repairing, mat-making and netting. For many years, however, he was not able to do more than work in the netting room. His death occurred quite suddenly on January 31st.

A wreath was sent for the funeral from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades, and a fellow St. Dunstaner, D. O. Evans, of Llansamlet, attended the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and her family.

Private Jeffrey Joseph Gillibrand, *Lancashire Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Gillibrand, of Pendleton, Manchester.

He lost his sight in France in April, 1917, and came to us in November of the same year. He trained with us in poultry-farming and mat-making. He proved to be a first class worker at the latter occupation and he continued with this for some time, in spite of ill health, but eventually he was obliged to be content with a little light work from the netting room. Even so, during the war, he was determined to do his bit and he took a job in a local factory, but many times he had to give up owing to his health. He carried on, however, right to the end, but a bad attack of asthma and bronchitis led to his sudden death at his home on February 13th.

Among the many flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades, and a wreath from members of the Manchester Sports Club. Mrs. Dunphy, Mrs. Lang, of the Manchester Sports Club, and Mrs. Birley, wife of our St. Dunstaner, were present at the funeral.

He rested in St. Sebastian Priory Church where Requiem Mass was said.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Gillibrand, who is herself ill.

Private Edmund Arthur Kenneth Trehearne, *10th Royal Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of a St. Dunstaner, E. A. K. Trehearne, of Chipstead, who, although he served in the 1914-18 war, did not come to us until 1942, his sight having only then failed as a result of gassing in France. He went to Church Stretton and the home crafts he learnt there gave him considerable pleasure in his later years.

He died at the home of his sister, with whom he lived, and our deep sympathy is extended to her in her loss.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his friends at St. Dunstan's was among the flowers at the funeral.

New Zealander's Loss

We have heard with deep regret from J. McGuone, of Wellington, New Zealand, that he lost his wife in tragic circumstances on December 13th. She fell backwards as she was going upstairs, breaking the neck of her thigh-bone, and she died six weeks later.

Our St. Dunstaner's daughter is married and away, and he now has someone house-keeping for him, but as he says, it is hard to start off with strangers after all these years.

We send him our deep sympathy.

Bishop Nickson

St. Dunstaners who were at Church Stretton will hear with deep regret that Bishop Nickson died on February 23rd at the age of 84. Many who were at our Training Centre in the war years will remember his generous and kindly interest in their welfare, and the blinded officers who were his neighbours at Battlefield will particularly mourn his passing.

Mrs. Irvine, who was Matron at Battlefield, represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Friends

A GOOD many people are lonely, including some blind people. Some are lonely at all times because they are uncommunicative or shy. Others are lonely for a few hours of the day or perhaps at week-ends, when they are not at work and the family are busy getting the dinner. A blind man is more susceptible to this kind of loneliness than others, because he is less mobile or less capable of amusing or interesting himself in various activities. What is a cure? The radio or talking book or braille will pass the time, but they will not make up for the lack of human society. You cannot talk things over with a talking book, or open your heart to a braille magazine, nor can you go for a walk with either. You can go for a walk by yourself, and many do, and feel the better for the exercise and fresh air. Still the lack of human association is there. To remedy this state requires some effort on the part of the blind man himself. You must attract people so that they want to be with you. It is no use going to your club if, when you get there, you are still alone. It is no good someone coming to take you for a walk if you know it is a bore or a duty which they are perhaps only too willing to discharge, but glad to finish. To attract friends is easy for some and difficult for others; there is no secret remedy. If you cannot do it easily and naturally, do not give up. There is something you can do about it. First of all, try and make yourself a good listener. Most people like talking about their own interests or themselves. Few people like listening to other people's troubles. Secondly, be well-informed, not to deliver lectures but so as to keep conversation going. It is very difficult to talk in a friendly way to someone whose only answer is yes or no.

It is not so easy for a blind person to be well-informed, because he cannot read the newspapers, but fortunately there are other ways. Radio is a wonderful source of information. It is worth while studying the details of the programme so as to see what is coming and plan to listen. A regular series of talks is often worth following, even if at first it bores you. Do stick it out. Nothing good can be had without going for it. You will probably find that the more you listen the more you will be interested, and you will look forward to the next instalment of the programme. Plays are excellent. So are the discussions and the book reviews and the current events talks. Then there is the talking book and braille; although they do not give human companionship, they make you more interesting so that you are better qualified to attract or retain friends. Doesn't it amount to this?—friendship is a two-way affair, for you must give as much as you take. A blind man must receive guidance and help; his friends must see for him, and he must, therefore, repay in some other way. This does not necessarily make for embarrassment; on the contrary, it may bring the two friends closer together. If ever I am tempted to be

sorry for myself because I have been left alone, I reflect that it is probably my fault for being a bore or being inconsiderate. People are so kind that this danger is ever present for all of us, blind and sighted alike.

St. Dunstan's Braille Machines

The old Stainsby-Wayne is a faithful friend. Most St. Dunstaners learnt their braille with its help. But it writes downwards, so that you cannot read whatever you have written without taking the paper out. I remember, in my father's office forty years ago, an old Yost typewriter which wrote upside down, and you had to turn the carriage on its back to read what you had typed. No typist would thank you for a machine like that nowadays, but we are so very conservative, especially blind people, and we stick to the Stainsby probably because we have got used to it. However, now we have introduced a new St. Dunstan's Braille Writer. It writes upwards and you can feel what you have written immediately. It only writes on one side of the paper, but normally this does not matter. Paper is cheap enough. For the business man who wants a machine on his desk, or for the letter or note writer, it is a great improvement. New St. Dunstaners will be taught on it, and will qualify for it if they need it when they leave. St. Dunstaners who have left can apply for it, and if it makes a contribution to their business, or enjoyment of life, they can have one. The keyboard is different to the Stainsby and a little confusing at first, but it will soon be learnt by a keen brailist. Lessons can be arranged at Brighton or Blackpool for those who want to qualify for it, and take a test when they are on their annual vacation there. No country in the world uses a machine which writes upside down, except ours. The new machine is not original. It is merely a copy of one of the best and simplest which has stood the test of time. It is light and well-made. I recommend it to anyone who really makes use of braille writing and is not too old to learn a slightly new technique for the fingering.

IAN FRASER.

The Navy and St. Dunstan's

During the years 1941-45, when we were at Church Stretton, our Home at Ovingdean was occupied by the Royal Navy. It became H.M.S. Vernon—a Naval school for instruction in the use of under-water weapons. On April 4th, to commemorate their use of our building, a plaque was presented to St. Dunstan's on behalf of the captain, officers and men of H.M.S. Vernon, now at Portsmouth.

Commander J. R. Carr, now commanding H.M.S. Vernon, made the presentation to Sir Ian Fraser. The plaque is in the form of a wooden shield. It records the war-time use of the Training Centre, and bears the ship's badge, a crest, and the punning Latin motto, *Ver non semper viret* ("Vernon always flourishes").

Among those present also was Lady Fraser, Commandant Fawcett, and Matron Pain, and Lt. Commander Robin C. B. Buckley, G.M., R.N., who served three periods with the Vernon at Portsmouth before the war, and who was the first Naval officer to lose his sight in the war. Lt. Commander Buckley is now back with H.M.S. Vernon at Portsmouth, on lecturing and other duties, and in the course of a

speech which charmed everybody, he traced back his connection with H.M.S. Vernon from the time he was a midshipman until 1941 when, to use his own words, while taking to pieces an enemy explosive of a novel type, he passed the essential test which ensured his entry to St. Dunstan's.

Receiving the plaque, Sir Ian said that it would have a place of honour in the Training Centre. The building had been handed back to St. Dunstan's by the Navy in the same perfect order as it had been taken over.

Honour

E. W. Read, of Portchester, formerly Chief Electrical Artificer, Royal Navy, and now at St. Dunstan's, has just received the Gold Medal in the Order of Oranje Nassau, graciously awarded to him by Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.

Placements

F. Howse as a telephone operator with Dartford Hospital Management Committee; E. Marr, of Blackburn, with Messrs. Phillips, Blackburn Works, on mica gauging and selecting; J. Mottershead, wiring metal parts, with Messrs. Cooke & Ferguson, Manchester.

Club News

London

On April 1st we held a really topping Dance at the Chelsea Town Hall, when well over two hundred people attended and danced to Ernie Cookson and his Band, and we must certainly hand a bouquet to Tiny Fleming and his sub-committee for the best dance of the year. We were delighted to welcome Sir Ian and Lady Fraser during the evening.

The top score at whist has been beaten by Alf Wiltshire, with a score of 101, beating the previous best, set up by McSteel, of 100.

Why not drop in one evening and enjoy the Club with your fellow members?

Bridge.—Will all those who are interested in Bridge please contact Frank A. Rhodes at Club Headquarters, any Tuesday evening or Saturday afternoon (except Bank Holiday Saturdays)?

The Bridge Section entertained a large number of guests to a bridge drive on March 26th, and the lucky ones (or should I say the skilful ones) were presented with a small token of their effort by Miss Ibbetson. On April 2nd, twenty-four St. Dunstaners from near and far assembled to take part in the first round of the Sir Arthur Pearson Tournament for teams of four. Will all those who played on Saturday, April 2nd, note that the second and final round will be played off on June 18th?

F. A. R.

Indoor Activities.—All Houses and Clubs are now acquainted with the Rules covering the Finals for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies. There have been no comments, so I take it they are accepted. If, however, anyone would like a copy of the Rules I shall be glad to send him one.

Darts and dominoes are first on the list, and preliminary heats or rounds should be well under way. I want your best teams for the finals as soon as possible. Meeting place and time can then be arranged.

Home Notes—A Trip to Epsom?—Derby Day, June 4th, Whit-Saturday? A trip can be arranged providing I have your applications quickly. Coaches are getting scarce, and I would like to restrict to one escort, as I can only arrange for 60 at most. More than 60—a ballot will decide who shall go.

Singing and Musical Instruments.—Can we recapture the old enthusiasm? Here, the more the merrier. I hope to receive sufficient entries to make it possible to provide accommodation elsewhere. Let me hear from you, please.

A most enjoyable evening was spent by our Darts team at the Queen's Arms, Fulham. We were again, unfortunately, beaten, so a little more practice from the darts boys, please.

TINY F.

Outdoor Sports.—Swimming will start on May 2nd, and thenceforward every Monday evening, 7—8 p.m., at the Seymour Baths, Seymour Place, W.1. We join the Blind Sports Club. Please bring your own costumes. All interested, please contact T. Gaygan, or Mr. Willis at the Club, who will issue tickets. Swimming is "mixed."

Rowing.—Now that the evenings are longer, many fellows may like to have a row on the lake at Regent's Park; boats are available at the boathouse again this year. Any men who think of forming double sculls or pair oars should contact Tommy Gaygan, who will fix boats and coxes.

We are making headway with the *Field Day*, to be held in September, and hope to publish full programme next month. By the way, chaps, the Gym. is still open.

T. G.

Magic, Conjuring, Ventriloquism.—Do you know that every Monday evening, at about 7.15, free tuition is given in the art of magic to St. Dunstaners, by members of the Institute of Magicians? Any St. Dunstaner, and escort if you wish, who would like to avail themselves of this opportunity can be assured that he will have a very amusing time. Amuse your friends at parties and, at the same time, get a real kick out of it yourselves.

So, brother St. Dunstaners, we welcome you to the St. Dunstaners' Section of the Institute of Magicians. For full particulars, please telephone or write to Mr. Mackay, at Headquarters.

A. W.

Golden Wedding

We warmly congratulate Mr. and Mrs. J. Bentley, of Lancing, who celebrated their golden wedding on March 27th.

Derby Sweepstake, 1949

Applications are invited for tickets in the REVIEW's own Derby Sweepstake, which is open only to St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees.

Tickets will again be 2s. 6d. each and applications for them can be made at once and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 20th.** Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered.

The total amount of the money subscribed, after the cost of printing and postage has been deducted, will be distributed as follows:—

- 50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.
- 20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.
- 10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.
- 20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

The First Commentator?

From the Sports Editor's Diary, "Evening News," April 8th:—

Who was the first commentator to give a running commentary of a football match? I'm not talking about radio, so there's no need for George Allison to be brought into the argument.

My friend, Father P. G. Howell, of the Church of St. Anselm and St. Cecilia, in Kingsway, seems to have a pretty good claim to the distinction. He was identified with St. Dunstan's after the 1914-1918 war, and was himself a useful goalkeeper. In the 1919-20 soccer season he took a party of blinded ex-Service men from St. Dunstan's to Stamford Bridge for a Chelsea—Middlesbrough match.

The blind fans stood round him while he described the match for them, move by move. That was over 30 years ago . . . radio commentators came much later. Can anyone go farther back?

West House Notes

March has been a comparatively quiet month, although we have had the usual round of Friday night dances, domino and whist drives, and darts matches. Mrs. Rhees arranged a special domino drive on the 19th, when Toc H sent eighteen members to compete with the boys. The winners for St. Dunstan's were J. Batty, of Sheffield; J. Broadley, of Felixstowe; and W. Sankey, now permanent at West House.

On the 8th we had a darts match with St. Richard's Church Club, Hove; we lost to the men's team but had success when playing against the ladies. We again met the members of St. Richard's Church Club, this time on their home ground, on the 22nd, for darts, dominoes and cribbage.

The management of the Dudley Hotel gave a dance for us on the 3rd, and a little party of our lads joined Ovingdean trainees in what proved to be a most enjoyable evening.

We were so pleased to welcome a friend of ours back on the 27th—Mr. Austin Laidlaw, whom we had not seen for two years. He gave a gramophone recital in the Lounge and played a variety of records to suit all tastes. His efforts were much appreciated by all present.

We have not had much outside activity, apart from one or two drives to Alfriston, but there was one race meeting at Plumpton during the month, and our usual racegoers attended in full force. Those coming to West House for a holiday this summer, and who are fond of walking, should come prepared, as Miss Morgan, of our V.A.D. Staff, is going to organise a succession of rambles over the Downs and far away.

On the 31st we rounded the month off with a play-reading by members of the staff, entitled "The Butler Walks," by W. Muggeridge, who is now staying here. This was a repeat performance as we did it in 1947, when it was a great success. It has special appeal to all those familiar with West House and its residents, as the play, which is a thriller, is enacted at West House and "The Butler" causes much consternation amongst the V.A.D. Staff.

Grandfathers

A. Williams, Chepstow; J. Garbutt, Stockton.

The Milky Way

We sat near the dispensary, strumming our old catarrhs, and humming "Man is a sturdy oak, woman the clinging vine," when the call came.

"I am not myself to-day, doctor," I said, weakly.

"Then who are you?" he asked. He was very sympathetic.

"I feel like my neighbour who died five years ago."

"Rubbish!" he said sepulchrally, and nodded to a Sister.

"Lie on the couch, Brookie," she ordered. "Pull up your shirt."

I did, and while I waited, raising my shirt became a sort of reflex action with me. When anyone approached, my hands instinctively flew to my shirt. Soon the doctor came, and, selecting favourite spots, dug a finger into them. "Milk and diet," he announced.

I began to think dismally of brass handles, brass plates, and polished wood, and of half the world saying nice things about me they forgot when I could manage with darker moisture than milk. Then I brightened considerably when it occurred to me that I had merely completed the cycle in man's drinking life. As a baby, milk is forced upon him, then come ginger-pop, tea, beer, anything, spirits, wine, cyder, whitewash, tonics, bismuth, water, and finally the doctor makes him drink milk again.

The depressing stage is when one has to hold one's nose before he can drink milk. I reached that point and, to cheer myself, became a song-writer. With a glass of foaming milk held above my head, in a lusty voice I sang my first composition to Matron Ouseley:—

I think that when there ceased to be
sufficient tenement

To hold my conscience, then I would
begin to be content.

And if I should be there to see my tummy
take its leave,

I'd dash my milk upon the lea and chuckle
in my sleeve.

Matron thought that my brain was going bad. After another week's milking I asked Matron to find a cow that could give whisky and milk. And she asked the staff to hide the dinner knives.

The treatment cured me. I am a real tough now.

Though we sturdy oaks suffered so, there was only one casualty amongst the staff; that was a black eye. We were sympathetic, and wished her a very speedy recovery because we had to live by the sweat of her brow. I have been thinking since "Which of the twain is the 'clinging vine'?"

Southampton.

W. E. BROOKES.

Talking Book Library

March Miscellany

Before I give the latest dope, I must apologise for my misuse of history last January. Cromwell could not cope with the Russian challenge since, like myself, he never realised its existence.

Four new books to decorate the library shelves were delivered in March: "On the Edge," "A Boy in Kent," "The Pursuer," and "The House by the Sea."

"On the Edge," written W. de la Mare, read Duncan Carse, is a collection of shorts, with a common thread throughout which makes them reasonably suitable for talky book. The thread, by the way, is a slight shade of eeriness, making them, for want of a better term, a collection of ghost stories. The book is well read and written, but the power is not sufficient to produce goose pimples. However, I do believe too many books of this type are unhealthy for our limited horizon.

"A Boy in Kent," written C. Henry Warren, read F. P. Bayley, is an autobiographical boyhood, interesting, maybe, to those who know the locality it covers, but hardly of moment to others. Comment: The urge to write is more compelling than the urge to read.

"The Pursuer," written L. Golding, read Gordon Little, is a fantastic yarn of persecution mania, starting at school and continuing through life. Easy reading, but the only way I can describe it is as an imaginative, tragic farce. Well read and recorded.

"The House by the Sea," written J. Godden, read F. P. Bayley, is a deceptively quiet title for the unsavoury tale of a Yankee army deserter who batters on to a middle-aged spinster in a solitary house in Cornwall. An uneasy sort of book, but not too bad a yarn.

This brings the total releases for the first quarter up to ten books of sufficient variety to suit most tastes. Next month promises a good bag. Good listening!

"NELSON."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been keenly interested in the criticism of the quality of the paper used for the printing of the braille edition of the National News Letter, and also Mr. Rowley's reply. I, too, like the others, have had difficulty in reading the National News Letter, and, like the others, thought it was the man doing the reading (or trying to read).

Mr. Rowley states that the same quality paper is used in eighteen other braille periodicals, and that he receives criticism from other blind persons, complaining of the quality of the paper used, some saying this, some saying that. After reading Mr. Rowley's letter, I thought it would be a good idea to put his explanation to the test by measuring the thickness of the paper used for printing four braille periodicals, namely, the National News Letter, Nuggets, Forward (the organ of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association), and St. Dunstan's REVIEW. The first three are printed by the N.I.B., and the REVIEW by the Royal Blind School, Edinburgh. I used my braille micrometer for this purpose, and here are the measurements: National News Letter, 0.0052in.; Nuggets, 0.0052in.; Forward, 0.0065in., St. Dunstan's REVIEW, 0.0056in.

You will see that the News Letter and Nuggets are the same thickness, whilst Forward (which is printed by the N.I.B.) is 0.0013in. thicker. I certainly think this difference in thickness, although only just over a thousandth part of an inch, does make all the difference.

Would it be asking too much of Mr. Rowley and the N.I.B. to spare some of the paper as used in Forward to be used for the National News Letter, and so give a great deal of pleasure to a great number of blind persons?

Yours sincerely,

Reading.

T. W. CHAMBERLAIN.

(The eighteen periodicals mentioned by Mr. Rowley did not, of course, cover all the publications issued by the N.I.B. and Forward was one of these. Mr. Rowley assures us again that the paper position is gradually improving, and he hopes very shortly to be able to improve the quality of the paper used for the National News Letter and the other publications.—Ed.)

DEAR EDITOR,

Totally deaf five years before I came to St. Dunstan's, I was never visited by a representative from either a deaf or a disabled ex-Servicemen's organisation. I learnt the manual alphabet from an old magazine, but unlike braille, what use was it if other people did not learn it too?

There are people who will spend a few moments in writing out a large cheque, but who would never take the trouble to learn to talk to the deaf, or pay the bedridden a visit.

May I say I am not referring to our own deaf or bedridden. On the contrary, I think St. Dunstan's is to be congratulated upon the number of doubly handicapped they have taken under their wing. We are well trained and equipped as blind men, but from a social point of view, our lives could be improved if the British Legion were doing what it should. Unfortunately, the Legion is too much like the church, pub, and theatre, "open for those who can get there and hear," but offers nothing to those who cannot.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

From Miss Oliphant

Dear St. Dunstaners and wives of the South West and South Wales,

A message through the REVIEW seems my only way of sending to you my very warmest thanks for your wonderful gift to me, the cheque for £20, which was recently presented to me at a small luncheon party in Bristol. For that, and the very kind things that were said, and the many nice letters and messages I have received, I am indeed grateful. I am waiting a little while before deciding what to buy, hoping that shopping problems will become easier, though I am rather thinking of getting a typewriter which I much need.

I am now working for the Somerset Red Cross, but hope to see many of you when more petrol becomes available and as time permits, or if you come this way, and at Re-unions. Meanwhile, this brings my love to you and your families, and again very many thanks for your gift and for all your many kindnesses to me during past years.

Your sincere friend,

D. J. OLIPHANT.

54 Wellington Road, Taunton, Som.

Reunions Begin

The first Reunion of 1949 was held at Cardiff on March 11th, when a happy gathering welcomed Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, a British Legion guest, Captain James Prince, M.B.E., Secretary of Cardiff and District Branch, and Mr. Tudor Thomas, the well-known surgeon, of Rookwood Hospital, through whose clever and kindly hands a number of St. Dunstaners have passed.

In his speech, Sir Ian said he did not think there was any doubt that the war-blinded of two wars had been remarkably well rehabilitated. Freedom from government control had helped immensely and, he added, "our men are an example to the world."

The Norwich meeting took place at the Stuart Hall on April 5th. Captain J. J. Chapman, M.B.E., Chairman of the Eastern Area of the Legion, and Mr. G. W. Barnard, Secretary of the Norwich Branch, were among the guests. Mr. Mackay presided, in the absence of Sir Ian, whose duties at Headquarters and in the House of Commons made it impossible for him to attend, but a message of good wishes from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser was read and received with applause.

Two days later, Colchester had its meeting. It was a fine Reunion. Only three men of those invited did not attend. Among the guests was Major G. C. Benham, M.C., President, Colchester Branch, British Legion, and to everybody's great pleasure, Lady Fraser also arrived to bring Sir Ian's good wishes to the meeting.

Gift Food Parcels from the Argentine

The food parcels from the Argentine, mentioned in our last issue, are now arriving, and by the time the REVIEW reaches you, many of them should have been sent out. Although they are being labelled at Headquarters and posted from there, the packing has all been done in Buenos Aires, and as members of the St. Dunstan's Committee have gone to a great deal of trouble in carrying out this gesture, it is felt that they would greatly appreciate letters of thanks from St. Dunstaners. These should be addressed to: The Chairman, St. Dunstan's Buenos Aires Committee, Bolivar 1575, Buenos Aires, Argentina, South America. Postage of letters to the Argentine is 3d.

In Brief

C. H. Singleton, of Kingsbury, is a member of a choir called the Apollo Singers, which last month gave a big concert at a factory at Acton.

★ ★ ★

There was a good article in the *Sunderland Echo* recently about our St. Dunstaner, Fred Warin. It paid high tribute to his stability and way of life.

★ ★ ★

In spite of his ill-health, A. T. Tebbutt, of Nottingham, has done splendid work for St. Dunstan's. Two concerts arranged by him recently brought in £12.

★ ★ ★

George Mortimer, of Witham, was a member of the Young Conservatives' Brains Trust which held a Session at the Constitutional Club, Witham, recently. Reference to his quick replies was made in the local paper.

★ ★ ★

Captain J. M. Rees, who for long has been one of the most active British Legion members in his district of Monmouthshire, has been unanimously elected President of the British Legion Club and Branch, Panteg.

★ ★ ★

Following recent correspondence in the REVIEW, Bob Bridger recommends a non-electric razor for St. Dunstaners, and mentions the Wilkinson Dry Shaver.

★ ★ ★

"Remember me to all the boys," writes J. Todd, of Pascoe Vale, Australia, acknowledging his Christmas letter.

"The One Who Touches"

Mrs. Florence Blaxall, wife of the Rev. A. W. Blaxall who, with our late St. Dunstaner, R. W. Bowen, has done much for the coloured blind of South Africa, has written a most interesting little book. It is called "Mapupula—The One Who Touches," and it tells most movingly of the way in which infinite patience and understanding have brought some happiness into the life of a young Zulu boy, blind and deaf since he was two years old. Now he is twenty-one and Mrs. Blaxall's work is still not finished, but the hardest part is over and she and her husband must feel deep satisfaction at the success they have attained.

"You've a Lucky Face, My Dear"

During my service in India I, in common with many others, met the usual selection of "wallahs," and had one afternoon a meeting with a fortune-teller. It happened this way. Idling my time away with a fellow sergeant, slightly bored, and waiting for something to turn up, he appeared, with all the usual appeals for a rupee, in exchange for which he would divulge the future. I grinned and managed to induce my friend to try his luck; he passed the rupee, and was told the usual stuff about his wife going to welcome him back home in a few months, how he would change his life, etc., etc., all quite good guesswork, and highly probable. Having talked for some ten minutes he then, of course, needed more rupees to tell more, but my friend was a Scot, so thought his one rupee enough, and then tried to encourage me to chance it. I agreed. I took out my rupee and gave it to the "mystic," who squatted in front of me. He took the money, and tucked it into his robe, then looked at me; after one searching glance he hurriedly snatched forth my rupee from his clothing and thrust it back, muttering, "Nai, Sahib, nai, nai," . . . This may not sound strange, but to all who know Indians, the object is to get money, not to give it back. This chap really thrust it back and, hastily scrambling to his feet, grabbed his bits and pieces and disappeared.

Now, I am not superstitious, and neither believe in nor disbelieve supernatural things. I do, however, wonder why he refused to tell me my future, why he did not keep the money, and why he seemed scared; but I do know I lost my sight within a week.

N.M.

J. A. MUDGE.

To Lancastrian St. Dunstaners

At a recent meeting of the Lancastrian Society, Sussex, it was unanimously decided to invite Lancastrian St. Dunstaners living in and around Brighton, and boys in training at Ovingdean to become honorary members of the Society. The invitation has reached us through Mrs. Bessie Davies, Chairman of the Ladies Section, who has herself been an escort since 1938 and who asks eligible St. Dunstaners wishing to join to apply for a nomination form from the Secretary, Mr. G. O. Sutton, 49 Lyndhurst Road, Hove, 4.

To All Campers

Royal Air Force's invitation, Shawbury, Shropshire: Friday, July 8th, to Saturday, July 16th.

Fares over 15s. will be repaid in camp.
Fee of £1 7s. 6d. payable in camp.

Royal Naval invitation, Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent: Friday, August 5th, to Saturday, August 13th.

Fares over 15s. repaid.

Camp fee, £1 7s. 6d.

Entries for both camps close without fail on Monday, May 16th.

Chess

J. B. Campbell, of Houghton-le-Springs, who is one of our telephonists, but who has not been to St. Dunstan's, is a keen chess player. He recently won the shield at the local club and he would very much like to get in touch with other St. Dunstaners who are players. His address is 4 Burns Avenue, Houghton-le-Springs.

Bridge

On Saturday, April 2nd, H. Gover and F. Winter played in a "Pairs" competition in the Southend area, held at the Overcliff Hotel. The event* was decided by the Howell movement; there were 32 pairs, and H. Gover and F. Winter finished second, being only 4 points behind the winners. The event was match-pointed and the winners were 249 and the second, 245.

The National Laying Test

for the period of four weeks, January 31st to February 27th, 1949

Name	Test Score
Bagwell, Philip	485
Webb, William	430
Gregory, T. D.	429
Young, W. E.	422
McIntosh, Charles	384
Holmes, Percy	377
Jarvis, Albert	365
Woodcock, W. J.	362
Chaffin, Albert	325
Smith, W. Alan	293
Carpenter, E. H.	274
Clarke, T.	216

Average per bird to date, 63.89.

Coincidence

Ernest Marr recently took up a job with Messrs. Phillips' Blackburn Works on gauging and selecting. Soon after he had started, another employee, Tom Brown, arrived in the canteen one day and immediately recognised our St. Dunstaner as the man whom he had last seen lying wounded on the battlefield at Caen in 1943, and had driven him in a jeep from the line to the dressing station.

They had served alongside each other in the same Company of the East Lancashire Regiment, and were holding a position outside Caen during the Normandy invasion, waiting to go into attack. A shower of mortar bombs fell and Marr was hit and rendered unconscious. Tom Brown took him to the dressing station in his jeep, but heard later, unofficially, that his friend had died of his wounds.

Marr now has a permanent escort and guide at the works.

Can You Beat This?

Our little boy, John, is two years and ten months old, or will be on June 26th next. Quite some months ago he was attracted by my After-Care badge in the lapel of my jacket, and I explained to him in detail its characteristics.

We were reminded of this again on Monday evening when we had a visit from some friends. We were sitting and talking, and one of the friends presented John with a little novelty briar pipe. After showing his pleasure at receiving this present, and after being shown how to hold it to his mouth, he instantly made a bee-line for me, got on to my lap, put the pipe into his mouth and, taking my badge from my lapel, proceeded to "light" his pipe with the torch.

My reaction to this was—so may the torch of St. Dunstan's continue to burn.

L. W. COOK.

Sutton, Surrey.

★ ★ ★

On March 27th, Nina Durham, niece of G. James, of Barrow-on-Soar, was married to Stanley William Betts. Nina has been brought up from babyhood by our St. Dunstaner and his sister, Miss James.

A Writing Device

A lady recently called at 1 South Audley Street to show us a writing device she had designed for her sister, who had been blind for twelve years. It was in an oblong box, about 10 inches wide by 8 inches, and was based on the idea of a cash register. The lid of the box had a long narrow window cut in it; inside a roll of paper passed over a roller, and through a slit cut in the end of the box. The line of writing is written in the window, the roller turned by means of a handle outside, and the next line automatically comes into use. When the letter is finished it is neatly torn off, the edge of the slit acting as a "guillotine."

Our friend, who is over 70, wants St. Dunstaners to know of this in case it can help them.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," April, 1919.

On March 15th, No. 2 London General Hospital, Chelsea—St. Mark's College as it was before the war—closed down; and thus ended the first and probably one of the most important steps in the lives of a very large number of the men who have been blinded in the war. By an arrangement with the War Office, blinded men were, when possible, sent direct to St. Mark's, or were transferred there from other establishments, for final examination before they came to St. Dunstan's.

The importance of getting in touch with the man as soon as possible after he had lost his sight, of telling him of the achievements of others who had been disabled as he had, of giving him hope and encouragement which was so sorely needed to enable him to overcome his trouble, were fully realised by Sir Arthur, who periodically went to the hospital himself, and who organised a regular staff of Braille teachers, readers, and visitors.

It was in St. Mark's that the majority of St. Dunstaners had to first face the fact that they were not to see again, and since we have, after our time at St. Dunstan's, learned to regard the loss of sight as nothing more than a handicap, to be reduced by thought and application to its lowest possible limit, we cannot help looking back to St. Mark's as a place of achievement, a place where our first battle was fought and won, a place of happy memories.

Ovingdean Notes

Although we are fast approaching the end of yet another Term at the Training Centre, our programme of visiting lecturers has in no way diminished, and we have been able to provide such a variety of talks, debates, and discussions that surely all tastes have been satisfied!

Our first visitor this month was Mr. Percy Edwards, the ornithologist and well-known B.B.C. broadcaster. He came along to visit the Ward 1 men, and on this occasion too they were joined by some of their old friends from West House, as well as some of the trainees.

Interest in Europe and current affairs was stimulated by two exceptionally graphic talks, the first by Mr. Bredin, of the Central Office of Information, on "European Recovery," and on March 8th, "Experiences in Belgrade under German Occupation," related by Mrs. Yovitchitch, to whom we listened with growing concern and horror as she painted for us the grim picture of occupied Yugoslavia.

We were also pleased to welcome back to the Training Centre, Colonel G. Davys, who came this time to tell us a little about "Food and Farming in England," and another aspect of life in this country was presented to us by Commander Cooke (the Governor of Lewes Prison), whose talk, entitled "English Prisons and their Classification," was delivered with rare humour! We are looking forward very much to another visit.

A lecturer who is always much appreciated here is Mr. Wadsworth, of the Intelligence Department of the Midland Bank—in spite too of the rather involved subjects on which he speaks with authority. On the occasion of his last visit, he chose "The Nation's Output and how much use we make of it," and this was followed by many questions and lively discussion.

Our last visiting lecturer in March was Sir Ronald Nesbitt-Hawes, and his subject, "Burma Experiences," dealt in the main with Post and Telecommunication Services in Burma, of which he was Officer in Charge.

The Debating Society, too, seemed this month to have become suddenly serious-minded! The first was held on March 14th, and the voting went against the motion, which was "That Germany should be allowed more freedom for development."

Could it be that the Debating Society had been listening with care to the lecture given by our Yugoslav visitor? At the end of the month they held their second debate, and this time chose "That Youth has come to the fore too much in this generation." This really was a very good debate, and again the voting went against the motion.

From the foregoing you should not be led into thinking, for even one moment, that we have not also catered for the lighter side of life!

Dances were held at the Girls' Training College, Brighton, and also at Rustington. On the latter occasion the St. Dunstan's Choir gave a short concert during the first part of the evening.

We have, once more, to thank the Management of the Dudley Hotel, Hove for a splendid dance, at which 50 men and partners were their guests, on March 3rd, and on the following Thursday, Mr. Cheesman, of London, gave another Buffet Dance at the Arlington Hotel, Brighton.

Sunday evening entertainment has been supplied by Gramophone Concerts organised by Mr. Weir, a Brains Trust and a Quiz.

Shooting

On Tuesday, March 1st, a Shooting Match was arranged between the combined teams of the British Legion and the Rose and Crown, Fletching, *versus* St. Dunstan's. Teams of eight competed, with the following result: St. Dunstan's won by 349 points to 332, out of a possible 400. During the match the combined teams presented to St. Dunstan's two beautiful trophies for shooting:

(1) The British Legion Cup for the Individual Champion.

(2) The "Rose and Crown" Cup for the Team Championship.

These trophies are at present being used for monthly competitions, and were accepted on behalf of St. Dunstan's by the Commandant and J. Mahony.

We congratulate the Individual Champion for March, Shari Bekhradnia, from Persia, who scored a possible against his opponent's (J. Blakeley) 41. The Team Champions were the B-Staff, who defeated Dormitory 2B Team.

During the Individual Knock-out Competition, Tom Denmead beat Steve Minter's previous record of 49 in 39 seconds by scoring 49 in 30 seconds. J. Hawkins set up a record for a possible in 45 seconds,

the previous record being a possible in 50 seconds—held by “Dingle” Bell.

Darts

The Darts Competition for March was very successful once again—with no less than 50 entrants. The T. B. Competition was won by Colin Fraser, with Jim Griffiths as runner-up.

The S. S. Competition was won by George Emerson, with Ted Irons as runner-up.

Sports

It is proposed to run the Annual Sports again this year at Ovingdean, on July 9th. Events for the Challenge Cup will be as follows:—

Cricket Ball.

Totally Blind and Semi-Sighted 70yds.

Sprint.

Discus.

Long Jump.

Putting the Weight.

Medicine Ball.

Team Relay.

Walking.

Tug of War.

We shall, in addition, hold many other events for those unable to take part in those mentioned above.

Clubs or Houses who could raise a team and wish to enter the Sports, please get in touch with Mr. Jarrold, Training Centre, Ovingdean, not later than May 30th.

Individual entries can also be accepted from St. Dunstaners wishing to partake, who are living in the vicinity.

It is hoped that accommodation will be available at Ovingdean for those who are unable to travel back home on the same night.

March Test Results

Preliminary.—G. Jones, J. Langley, R. Giffin, A. Lincoln.

Advanced.—A. Shepherd.

Senior.—R. Sheehan, W. C. Scott.

Writing.—A. Shepherd, R. Pringle, G. Jacobs.

Typing.—A. Little, J. Roper, G. Rowley, J. Corrigan.

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. Matthews, Maidenhead, whose silver wedding in March, 1946, has only just been reported.

Entry of the Madihaters

(or Thoughts on reading recent correspondence in the REVIEW)

*Oh lawks a mercy, hush mah mouth,
Another hater from the south.
This mad hater, I regret,
Is from my shire, my Zummerzet,
Who with noxious aforethought malice
Takes nom-de-plume from Carroll's "Alice,"
Mad Hatter's what it's meant to be,
But Jack, old boy, you've dropped your "T."*

*No West House hatings from the north,
So here's some "luv" from south comes forth.
I love to hear the dulcet tones
Of West House whispering baritones,
Singing songs of Araby
Way down south, in Tennessee,
(While hate-filled voices, gruff and low
Say that is where they all should go.)*

*Maxwelton braes and aren't we all
Like tired old neddies by sea wall,
Freed from nuptial ball and chain
These lads are carefree once again,
So if by chance their lungs run riot
There's the lounge they call the quiet,
Where the southern West House guests
Can twiddle their thumbs and take a rest.*

*As for bawdy stories told,
Never, never one odd ode.
Their tales would not make eyelids flicker,
Could be told in drawing room by vicar,
Now come, ye guys, with southern hates,
Join in the scriptures with your mates,
Oh lawks a mercy, sakes above,
Cut out these hates, let's have some luv.*

*Floyd from Devon, his lips now sealed,
First set the seed in fallow field,
Transported them by airy fairy,
To our pal, Jack, in Castle Cary.
Who surely now to save his face
Will confine epistles to air space.*

*And now I think I've said enough,
Don't treat these hateful men too rough,
I'll finish now, I've had my say,
I'll see you West House boys in May.
God bless you all, forgive my chaff,
It's enough to make a capstan lathe.*

“GEN.”

★ ★ ★

Ernest Russell, of Leeds, has been elected to the Northern Area Council of the British Legion.

“ In Memory ”

Radio Mechanic Ronald James Statham, R.E.M.E.

With deep regret we record the death of one of our youngest St. Dunstaners, Ronald Statham, of Lee, S.E. He was twenty.

He enlisted as a cadet when he was only fourteen, and he served until 1946 with R.E.M.E. as a Radio Mechanic. Later that year, a grievous illness developed, which resulted in blindness, and, gradually, the loss of the use of his muscles. He became a St. Dunstaner, but he was never able to train. Throughout his illness he bore his suffering with great fortitude and cheerfulness.

A poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his parents and brothers and sisters who nursed him devotedly.

Sergeant Major John Edward Bell, 2nd Bn. Irish Guards

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of J. E. Bell, of Acton.

This old soldier served with his regiment from 1899 until 1915, and it was in that year that he came to St. Dunstan's. He became one of our braille instructors, and many St. Dunstaners of both wars passed through his hands.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was among the flowers at the funeral. A Requiem Mass took place at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes before the service.

He re-married last October, and our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, and to his son and daughter by his former marriage. Sadly enough, all arrangements had been made for him to retire from work and to live in Ireland.

Births

BILLCLIFF.—On March 11th, to the wife of G. Billcliff, of Grays, a son—David.

FORSTER.—On April 6th, to the wife of R. Forster, of Leeds, a son—Ian Robert.

NASH.—On March 15th, to the wife of T. Nash, of Cardiff, a daughter—Madeline.

Marriages

BIRCHALL.—On March 21st, J. W. Birchall, of St. Helens. He and his wife will live at Blackpool.

DALY—ALLEN.—On April 19th, at Brighton, Owen Daly, to Miss Allen.

MORGAN—PEARSON.—On April 16th, Easter Saturday, A. Morgan, of York, to Miss Alice Pearson.

PUZDROWSKI — MATTHEWS. — On March 26th, A Puzdrowski, of Birmingham, to Miss D. Matthews.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

CAMERON.—To Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Cameron, of Forest Gate, whose baby, Robert, died on March 15th at the age of ten weeks.

MORTIMER.—To George Mortimer, of Witham, Essex, whose mother recently passed away.

REDDISH.—To C. J. R. Reddish, of Brighton, whose wife died on March 19th.

Young St. Dunstaners

Kathleen Alderson (Baildon) has passed the Intermediate Accountant's examination and is now working for the Final, to be held in November.

Mavis Hazel, of Merton Park, has now passed her A.R.C.M. examination as well as the L.R.A.M. She is only twenty, and at the recent Wimbledon Music Festival was also awarded 85 per cent. for the violin solo class.

Maureen Robinson, Scarborough, with another girl from Easingwold, is to represent the Yorkshire Red Cross in connection with a big national event to be held in Holland in August.

Harry Pollitt, Farnworth, has become a teacher, having been trained under the post-war training scheme, after six years' war service.

The daughter of A. Anderson, of Forfar, who now lives in British Columbia, gave birth to a son on March 3rd.

Marriages

Robert Yuile, Glasgow, on March 25th, to Miss Ena Gladstone.

John Printie, Edinburgh, on February 26th, to Miss Theresa Buckley.

Joyce Stamp, Keelby, on April 2nd.

Norman Ian Brampton, Highgate, on February 26th, to Miss Renee Sylvester.

On March 2nd, the son of T. Lambourne, Bletchley, to Miss Nelly Owen.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 361—VOLUME XXXII

MAY, 1949

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

"Mr."

IN the first World War, St. Dunstaners were addressed by members of the staff mainly by their surnames, and the second World War group are mainly addressed by their Christian names. Speaking for my generation this did not seem strange to us for we were many of us under twenty years of age, and our teachers and Matrons were a good deal older than we were. If it was a little disconcerting to be called by your surname, or your Christian name, by a junior typist, we put up with it because we realised the difficulty of drawing the line.

This custom went on more or less generally until it outgrew its origin, as well as common sense. Now we have the anomaly that middle-aged and older men are still sometimes addressed by new and junior members of the staff in this manner, and if we do nothing about it, the same anomaly will arise with the new generation.

I think the time has come for a change, and I have therefore issued a directive to all staff of St. Dunstan's that all St. Dunstaners are henceforth to be addressed, in correspondence and verbally, by the title of "Mr." or, where appropriate, "Captain" or "Major," etc.

Nothing will prevent, and this directive is not intended to prevent, the friendly relationship between individuals which naturally leads to the use of surnames, Christian names or nicknames, but this must grow out of friendship and understanding, and not be taken for granted.

The Editor of the REVIEW points out to me the special problem that arises in the magazine. This issue appears in exactly the form to which we are accustomed and has not been altered as a result of my directive. The Editor would welcome suggestions as to how we shall carry out the spirit of the new proposal in the columns of this journal in future.

West House

On a recent visit to West House I made a statement which I think will be of interest to all St. Dunstaners. I said that the advent of the men from the Second War had added so many to our numbers that we needed more beds for sick and old, convalescent and holiday men, than we had planned in the 1930's. In those days we had hoped that the time would come when Ovingdean alone would provide sufficient beds for all these groups. We had given up West House, and it would have been sold had not the Second War intervened. Fortunately therefore, it was still there and when the war was over it served a most useful purpose—which it still serves—of providing additional beds.

It is, however, an old house with no lift, rambling passages, inadequate accommodation and ventilation, and not up to the standard of a St. Dunstan's Home.

We have now had the property thoroughly inspected and have been assured that the fabric is sound, and we have therefore decided that it is to be reconstructed inside and the

plans for this change are now being made. If we can get licences the work will probably begin in the autumn, and we shall have to make temporary arrangements to cover the period of reconstruction. Further information about this will be given later.

I feel sure St. Dunstaners as a whole, and particularly the 1914-18 men, will be glad to know that a new St. Dunstan's Home will be created on the old site at West House which is so familiar and so popular.

I took the opportunity of consulting the men who happened to be at West House on the occasion of my visit, and many of their suggestions will be taken into consideration, including particularly the desire for as many small rooms and hot and cold wash basins as possible. I shall be pleased to receive comments and suggestions on this proposal in general, and as regards details, which might be considered in the reconstruction.

War Pensions

There is much activity in relation to War Pensions behind us and ahead of us. A deputation representing many national organisations for ex-Servicemen and women went to see the Minister a few weeks ago under the leadership of the National Chairman of the British Legion, Lt.-Col. C. Gordon Larking, J.P., and Lt.-Col. R. Grimshaw, O.B.E., J.P., Chairman of the Legion's National Pensions Committee.

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There has never been such a widespread campaign for a review of War Pensions as the British Legion has conducted during the past year, and I have no doubt that the Conference will wish it to be continued.

Although we have not attained our main objective, which is a Select Committee to inquire into every aspect of War Pensions and Allowances, we have obtained a wide measure of support from M.P.s, Press and public, and the campaign will go on.

The Journal

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IAN FRASER.

Derby Sweepstake, 1949

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake, which is now closed, is being made at the Club premises at Headquarters on the evening of Friday, May 27th. Those drawing horses will be notified by letter.

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Welfare Superintendent.

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From the "St. Dunstan's Review," May, 1919:

"It is with feelings of great satisfaction that we read the terms of the preliminary Peace which the Allied and Associated Powers have prepared for the Germans, and the courteous but firm words with which M. Clemenceau delivered them to the enemy delegates, inspires us with confidence as to the determination of the victors that the terms should be carried out in every detail. We of St. Dunstan's bear no grudge and feel no resentment, but we like to know that the men who have forced on a peaceful world the horrors of the past four and a half years will get their deserts, . . . and that adequate steps will be taken to prevent the recurrence of the useless waste of human life and treasure which goes hand-in-hand with Armageddon."

Club News

London

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HANDICAP WINNERS:

S.S. Section—W. Miller, 1st.

W. T. Scott, 2nd.

T.B. Section—C. Williamson, 1st.

W. Robinson, 2nd.

T. Gaygan—Fastest Loser prize.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. J. W. Harris, R.W.A., for all his work in making this day such a success, to the escorts, to the ladies who provided such a splendid tea, and to the Bedford College officials for so kindly placing their premises at our disposal.

Birmingham Walk

The following Saturday, May 7th, saw the first post-war Walk of the Birmingham Club and there was a grand line-up for the start of this 7-mile race.

The Cup returned to London and two prizes were also awarded to each competing team. Mr. Fawcett, our Commandant at Ovingdean, presented the prizes, and we should like to add our thanks to his to Mr. Cooling, Honorary Treasurer of the Birmingham Club, and organiser of the Walk, and to the escorts and officials and to all our other Birmingham helpers. We were extremely sorry for A. Morgan, who was a late starter owing to a bad train connection. Nevertheless, he walked through the field up to third place and possibly with a level start would have done better.

RESULT		<i>min. sec.</i>
1 A. Brown	London	... 63 45
2 W. Miller	... London	... 65 12
3 A. Morgan	... Rest of England	66 57
4 T. Gaygan	... London	... 67 57
5 T. ap Rhys	... Rest of England	68 53
6 H. McL. Steel	London	... 69 54
7 J. Jerome	Rest of England	69 54
8 W. T. Scott	... London	... 70 32
9 J. Coupland	... Rest of England	72 49
10 C. Williamson	London	... 73 33
11 B. E. W. Bright	Birmingham	... 74 23
12 W. Robinson	... London	... 74 47
13 D. Faulkner	... Birmingham	... 74 57
14 S. Tutton	... Rest of England	75 25
15 W. S. Castle	... Birmingham	... 75 35
16 L. Kibbler	... Birmingham	... 77 21
17 W. Trott	... Birmingham	... 80 4
18 S. Southall	... Birmingham	... 82 53
19 J. Salt	... Rest of England	88 9

TEAM RACE

1st	London	... ..	17 points
2nd	Rest of England	... ..	25 points
3rd	Birmingham	... ..	57 points

West House Notes

Easter at last! The weather was superb and exceeded our wildest expectations. Fresh air was the order of the day.

In addition to two Plumpton Meetings for the racing fans during Easter, we had three other coach outings. All of these, the picnic on Littlehampton beach on Good Friday, the Treasure Hunt at Alfriston on Saturday, and the Mystery Drive to Ocken-den Manor, Cuckfield, on Easter Monday, were enjoyed immensely. The Treasure Hunters were rather inclined to take things easier than heretofore as the heat proved a little too much for such an energetic pastime; however, Rees Warren and his wife were successful in finding all the articles, which was quite an achievement. Still, we know that Rees is something of a magician!

The Communion Service and Evensong on Easter Sunday were very well attended. In the Chapel the decorations of Spring flowers were enhanced by the beautiful lilies given by H. Clevitt, of Worthing.

The evenings were well booked up with inside entertainment. On the 14th, the Staff read two one-act plays, one a thriller, "Master Dudley," and the other a comedy, "Inconstant Moon," which went over very well. A party was held on the 17th.

We were so very pleased to welcome a party of young French students from Nantes, La Chorale Chantecler, who sang some classical songs followed by some folk-songs, one or two of which were familiar to the boys. To reciprocate, our own Charlie Thomas sang a song for them, which, like their singing, was unaccompanied. A vote of thanks was given by H. Costigan.

The local lads paid us a visit on the 19th, when a whist and domino drive took place. The domino prize-winners were:

Resident.—(1) Broadley, (2) Orrell, (3) Brightwell.

Guests.—(1) Sebbage, (2) Miss Whiteman, (3) Unsworth.

The whist prize-winners were:

Gentlemen.—(1) Coles, (2) Stevenson.

Ladies.—(1) Mrs. Fleetwood, (2) Van Niekerk (playing as lady).

Booby.—Bob Young (Glasgow), Mrs. Mills.

Various other whist and domino drives were held during the month.

The holiday came to a most satisfactory close on the Monday night, when we had a

Gala Dance. We were all delighted to have Mrs. Malone with us once again over the Easter period.

The outstanding event amongst outside activities was on the 7th, when twenty-five men and four staff went to the Mayor of Brighton's "At Home." Tea was provided and afterwards all the guests were entertained at a most enjoyable concert.

During the month we had our usual Friday night dances. The 22nd being St. George's Eve gave us an excuse to have a special "do." Needless to say, it was enjoyed by all.

On the 28th, Mr. Austin Laidlaw was the Question Master at a Brains Trust. It was a most interesting discussion and the team consisted of Messrs. Humphreys, Cull, Martin and Muggeridge.

Last, but not least, weddings were in the air. Owen Daly was married to Miss Allen at the Church of St. John the Baptist on the 19th; a number of the staff were present.

Orderly Standley was married to Miss Jackson (V.A.D. Good Companion) on April 23rd, and T. Sattary's engagement to Miss Ethel Snell was announced at a dance on April 1st.

Camp Reminder

Shawbury, Shropshire (R.A.F.), July 8th to July 16th.

Lee-on-Solent (R.N.), August 5th to August 13th.

St. Dunstaners wanting to know camp arrangements should write to Mrs. Spurway, Holmwood Vicarage, Dorking.

National Laying Test

Report for the seventh period of four weeks, March 28th to April 24th, 1949.

Posn.	Name	Test Score
1	Bagwell, Philip ...	720
2	Gregory, T. D. ...	692
3	Young, W. E. ...	688
4	Webb, William ...	653
5	Holmes, Percy ...	650
6	MacIntosh, Charles ...	647
7	Woodcock, W. J. ...	605
8	Chaffin, Albert ...	593
9	Smith, W. Alan ...	556
10	Jarvis, Albert ...	551
11	Carpenter, E. H. ...	516
12	Clarke, T. ...	354

Average per bird to date, 106.12

Reunions

The Brighton Reunion was held at the Corn Exchange on April 20th, when a particularly large gathering of St. Dunstaners from Brighton and parts of Sussex and Surrey met Colonel C. H. Madden, O.B.E., M.C., Member of the British Legion National Executive Council, who was our special guest. Mr. Mackay presided, and among those present were Matron Ouseley, Matron Vaughan-Davies, the Commandant, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. G. Stenning, Secretary of Hove British Legion, and several members of the Headquarters and Technical Staff.

At Leicester, on the 26th, Mr. J. A. V. Boddy, Member of the National Executive Council and President of Leicestershire and Rutland Council, and Mr. J. E. Quain, Secretary of the Leicestershire Branch, were popular British Legion guests.

The Plymouth meeting took place at the Duke of Cornwall's Hotel on May 2nd. Major R. W. Fennamore, Secretary of Plymouth No. 1 Branch, represented the British Legion here.

Other News

J. H. New, of Wolverhampton, will be busy during the next few weeks attending presentations for St. Dunstan's as a result of the Domino and Dart Leagues which he organised some four years ago. With this year's cheque, his total from this one League will be £650.

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. T. Higgins, of Cricklewood, have received a pair of blankets from Princess Elizabeth—one of her wedding presents sent from Australia.

★ ★ ★

E. Jackson, of Chaddesden, is the domino "ace" of Chaddesden British Legion. He has not lost a league game since he joined the branch team last October.

★ ★ ★

Tommy McKay is now on the Committee of the Corstorphine (Edinburgh) Branch of the British Legion.

★ ★ ★

W. J. Carthy, of Ainsworth, has been made a vice-president of Nottingham Chrysanthemum Society, vice-president of the Rainworth Old Folk Fund and Publicity Officer of the local War Memorial Fund. As he is also on the local committees of the British Legion and the Mansfield R.A.F. Association, he hasn't much spare time.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with interest the Chairman's notes and on the same day was handed a copy of the "Herald" with a similar article by a blind civilian. From both, I think that there is one outstanding point and that is, "We are blind, but is the rest of the world?" Most of us have many friends and are, generally speaking, admired, but this is not what we want. I think that it is the public who want educating towards us and not we towards them. Many will affirm that the general public will pass you daily, will evacuate a carriage leaving you there, will not warn you of impending trouble, etc. Why, we do not know, and how much nicer it would be if they would greet us as they can see us and we are not dummies, to give us that hand when travelling, for to try to be too clever may lead to disaster, for noise is confusing and finally we are not super radar sets which can pick up all and sundry ahead of us. Could not talks be given occasionally, and press articles be used, for we are friendly but we have no eyes, and they have.

Yours sincerely,

Aston Clinton.

PAUL BAKER.

DEAR EDITOR,

While entirely agreeing with Sir Ian's advice *re* the "loneliness" of the blind, may I offer certain personal observations. Long and happy experience has shown me the superabundance of human kindness, a universal unselfish eagerness of sighted people to relieve our disability, yet invariably a strange disinclination on their part to take us out walking. The latter I do not believe is due to any lack of good nature, but to their timidity towards our peculiar affliction, and to their feeling of incompetence in understanding and coping with a responsibility they needlessly exaggerate. We can largely contradict this erroneous but perhaps natural misconception, by trying to live in their world, and not expecting them to enter ours. This can best be done by placing implicit confidence in them, in boldly attuning our mobility to theirs, and most of all by a conviction that we can enjoy with them the life and colour around us. The latter, by exercising our faculty of "visualisation" by inviting their co-operation by discriminate questioning, immediate activity and

surroundings, they will be both ready and pleased to enlighten us, and if we can thus get outside ourselves, we shall be worthy companions, and have travelled far along the road to Victory over Blindness.

Yours sincerely,

Southampton.

W. GIRLING.

Many a Slip . . .

DEAR EDITOR,

The Wolves won the Cup for the Midlands on April 30th. The team has been well entertained as a reward for its victory. A week later, it was a London team that took the Cup from Birmingham and the Rest of England. This victorious team of battle-scarred jolly old sportsmen could not get a drink on their thirsty train journey home. They had to drink only with their eyes. The Cup remained empty. Why? you may ask! There were so many foreigners having dinner. It is nice to know the British Industries Fair has been so successful.

Yours faithfully,

W. T. S.

"That Lucky Face"

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been reading that letter of Mr. Mudge's and I note that after paying his rupee to the fortune teller, he—the F.T.—took one searching look at Mudge's face and ran for his life. So what! The first time I saw Mr. Mudge I took one searching look at his face, and I gave a scream and also ran.

Yours sincerely,

Romford.

EBBY GRAY.

Young St. Dunstaners

Marriages

Eric Lucocq, Cardiff, on March 19th, to Miss Pat Smart.

Margaret Lomas, Walthamstow, on April 16th, to D. R. Wilson.

Mary Carlton, B.Sc., Canterbury, on August 7th, 1948, to Reginald Sterling, B.Sc.

Alma Firth, Heswall, on April 23rd, to Harry Musson.

G. Samworth, Edgware, on May 14th, to Miss Joan Winifred Daly.

James Moore, Folkestone, on January 1st, to Miss Ann Redden.

Sunbeams

Throughout summer, at Brighton and Blackpool, many of our comrades sit around in a punctured sort of way, blushing like pillar-boxes. One wonders—is it wise to get sun-tanned to a carbonado? Does auto-suggestion make sun worshippers such devotees, in that sun-tan looks somewhat like the colour of amber ale, thus it **MUST** be good for one?

In tropical countries people do not walk around bareheaded in strong sunshine: they invariably use the shaded side of a street. That sunshine can upset balance, provide an excuse, and play havoc with clear expression, I can prove conclusively.

A titubant fisherman from Fleetwood filched a "budgie" from its cage, tried to teach it to sing "Yo-ho for the Spanish Ma—hain," and a Blackpool policeman asked him why he had the bird in his hand. Stutteringly he replied that he was walking around in the sunshine looking for two birds in a bush to find out which really was worth the most.

Women, too, are equally liable to have their thoughts jumbled by too much sunshine, in spite of having their heads tied up like meat puddings. A son of mine was in the Admin' Office of one of the services. To that department came a letter which read as follows: "Dear Sir,—The doctor is making me have a little sun because I have had twins in the enclosed envelope, as you will see. This cannot be done without a struggle. Can I rely upon you to do something for me without that?"

Once again. I was chatting with the wife of one of our men—one of the nicest of women—telling her that I hoped to spend a week's holiday with the aid of a hiking-cum-railway tourist ticket. She said: "If you are within a mile or two of our house at any time—**STAY THERE!**" She, too, had her hair done up pudding fashion, but the sun's heat bored through that cover and upset her poor syntax.

So be careful with the sunshine this summer, won't you? Use it sparingly at all times. Ever remember that it is the shade that makes the sundial worth looking at.
Southampton. W. E. BROOKES.

★ ★ ★

At the 25th Re-union of the 21st Battalion of the KRRs., at York, G. H. Heeley, of Leeds, was elected Junior Vice-President of the Association.

Talking Book Library

April's Appetisers

Three shortish books form the month's quota of releases, "You're on the Air," "Gerald," and "Minute for Murder."

"You're on the Air," written and read by Lionel Gamlin, is an interesting account of broadcasting technique from a man living behind the microphone. The reader of the book has a great opportunity of putting his own writing across in this recording and the book is short enough to maintain interest throughout. Read this one—it is not the type you can hear on the wireless, but it brings the mike a little nearer.

"Minute for Murder," by Nicholas Blake, read by Alvar Liddell, is a goodish mystery thriller.

"Gerald," by Daphne du Maurier, read Richard Wessell, is the biography of an actor father by a novelist daughter. It is good, as most of this lady's writings are, but I am sorry she didn't slip a generation and write of her grandfather, for Gerald inherited his acting ability from his father, although, of course, he worked and polished until he achieved the top of his profession. A very human, penetrating biography, well written, well read and well recorded.

Many happy revolutions! NELSON.

Science Museum, South Kensington

The Museum Superintendent of the Science Museum, South Kensington, has informed us that arrangements are being made to stage a special exhibition for the blind and partially sighted from June 11th to June 26th, inclusive.

Two "May" Reviews

We would like to thank the observant readers who have pointed out the mistake in the date printed in last month's REVIEW. Although the REVIEW was numbered correctly, the printers jumped two months and made it "May" instead of "April." We would advise readers who keep their copies to alter May to April to avoid any confusion in the future.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. W. Farmery, Winchester, December 19th.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. S. Boorman, of Peterborough, April 19th.

Congratulations.

Blackpool Notes

Sunday, May 1st, will certainly be remembered by all the boys, old and new, who were at the Blackpool Home on that day. The occasion was the celebration of 28 years' service of Matron Vaughan-Davies. W. A. Biggs, of Leicester, in giving the toast, paid warm tribute to Matron's long and devoted service and he asked all present to be upstanding to the toast, "Matron—her jolly good health, good luck and every success in life." Then followed "For she's a jolly good fellow," and the cheers nearly brought down the roof of the big Lounge. Then we all did the Hokey-Cokey and smartly jiggled into the dining room to the tune of "Sons of the Sea" and the words of "Bobbing up and down like this."

On the previous day there was a presentation of gifts to two Sisters who were relinquishing their duties at the Home. One was Miss Berry, known to all St. Dunstaners who had visited Blackpool during the past seven years for her splendid services in time of sickness. Miss Berry was retiring at least for a time to care for her parents in Devon and all were sorry to lose her. She was presented with a magnificent pigskin shoulder bag and purse. Then Miss Kershaw, also of the Dispensary, who had been with us for three years, was presented with a handsome alarm clock and a note-case. Miss Kershaw is leaving us to take a training course in hospital, and when qualified, which we all hope will be with full qualifications in the shortest possible time, hopes to return to us again. Both Sisters thanked the St. Dunstaners for their tokens of appreciation. Their retirement is regretted by all of us and we hope that some day they will return to St. Dunstan's. W.A.B.

BLACKPOOL STOP PRESS

Mr. Bell, a new escort, has organised a rota so that we now have more men escorts—at least half-a-dozen.

The manager of the South Pier Hotel recently met Matron and has promised us regular tickets for their shows.

Our friend, the Rev. G. Chadwick, was married on May 3rd at Newcastle. "Deafy" Jordan, of Luston, made him a door-mat as a wedding present.

Miss Berry's and Miss Kershaw's "Thank you" to the troops:

"Miss Kershaw and I wish to thank you, through Matron, and to say how very much we appreciate your tokens of friendship presented to us. We hope you will forgive the rather cowardly way we have left without saying goodbye to anyone, and we ask you to accept it as proof of our feelings for you. We're both coming back. B. and K."

Tribute to Gas Company Telephonists

In a feature, "Salute to Southall," in the "Co-partners' Magazine," published by the Gas, Light and Coke Company, there was a picture of W. H. Timbrell at his board. The caption said: "Voice of Southall is cheerful Telephone Operator Bill Timbrell, known as 'Tim.' Totally blinded in First World War, he is St. Dunstan's trained. Finds his way around with absolute confidence. Does his own typing, too. He is one of several blind telephone operators employed by the Company."

From South To North

"O poet from the green hilled shire who
'aileth from the North,
E'er space has quenched thy foolish ire and
poured upon thee wrath,
Know that the seed on fallow field in that
fair village Cary
Has brought forth an abundant yield that
was quite necessary.
The bawdy jokes you hail with glee, as
pleasing to the vicars
No more will taint West House you see
reserved for city slickers.
Oft times we heard there was a place, where
all was peace and quiet
But found, on seeking, that the place was
one unholy riot;
Those dulcet tones sound dull indeed at
one or two a.m.
And country lads need sleep indeed after
their day's hectic play ('Hem!').
We love West House, we love the boys, and
love the Staff so cheery,
But still we register our hate of all the
'Willies' Weary.
So now you see, though you Taunt On, I
did not drop a 'T,'
I dropped a brick that will jaunt on down
by the Sussex sea."

The Pensions Debate

What the Press Said

On Tuesday, April 26th, War Pensions were debated again in the House of Commons. The Debate is reported in the "British Legion Journal" which is enclosed with this REVIEW. Here are extracts from some of the newspapers and journals which commented on the matter.

"TIME AND TIDE."

The division in the House of Commons on the Liberal motion demanding a Royal Commission to inquire into the adequacy of war pensions and allowances in the light of the present day cost of living was a dispiriting spectacle. Last year, when Sir Ian Fraser tabled a motion asking for a Select Committee of inquiry into the same matter, it was signed by 275 members, including nearly 70 Labour M.P.s. The Government's reaction to this all-party motion was first to refuse time to it, then to tell a private meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party that they did not think an inquiry necessary, and finally to try to discountenance the whole move by turning it into a party battle. What has been so dispiriting is the success which invariably attends this shabby manoeuvre.

"BELFAST NEWS LETTER."

There was every reason why the subject should have been kept on a non-party level, as the mover of Sir Ian Fraser's motion pleaded it should be. However, it was agreed that the debate produced valuable information apart from the hints of concessions from the Minister.

"ECONOMIST."

A sample survey of war pensions, such as the Assistance Board periodically undertakes among its cases, might reveal more accurately than the Ministry of Pensions' officials can tell just where and to what extent genuine hardship exists. If none exists, then it would be to the Ministry's advantage to have it established beyond doubt. One suspects that the persistent refusal to agree to an inquiry masks the Labour Party's—and in particular the trade unions'—dislike of the British Legion. In view of the dignified, sincere and informed speech made by Sir Ian Fraser in the debate, in strong contrast to the virulent attack

made on the Legion and other Service organisations by the Labour Member for Hull East, this attitude is quite uncalled-for.

"BIRMINGHAM POST."

Most of the feeling was due to Socialists who think that Conservatives are making political capital out of the legitimate agitation of the British Legion. They got their answer from Sir Ian Fraser, the blind Member for Lonsdale, who spent an hour begging the Government to take the controversy out of the field of party politics.

"NEW STATESMAN AND NATION."

Sir Ian Fraser made a firm, well-balanced speech with an earnest attempt to make it "non-political." Yet however sincere his object, there was no doubt that the campaign for a Select Committee had been used by many for political ends.

"THE TRIBUNE." (Mr. J. P. W. Mallalieu, M.P.)

"I think we know, but I'm not sure that we all need continually reminding, that disabled men, especially disabled ex-Servicemen, have a prior claim on society. Even now these claims are not being fully met. But the verbiage of back-bench contestants and the reasoned brilliance of Marquand prevented us on Tuesday from seeing the problem in a completely dispassionate light."

"NORWICH MERCURY."

Mr. Simmons, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions, announced some pensions changes which were welcomed by Sir Ian Fraser. But Sir Ian still wanted a Royal Commission.

"PORTSMOUTH EVENING NEWS."

Resentment of the attack (on the Legion) has been expressed in Portsmouth and district, which boasts of many thriving branches of the Legion. All who know anything of the movement's work in Portsmouth will be the first to deny that the "scrounger" types—if any—are the concern of those who devoted themselves to the welfare of the ex-soldiers, sailors and airmen of two world wars who have settled down in the City.

Ovingdean Notes

We had but a few days in April before the Easter Break. The End of Term Dance was held in the Lounge on Friday, April 8th, and went with a swing from start to finish. There was, as usual on such occasions, an excellent Buffet, and in the interval we had an amusing interlude provided by Geoffrey Jacobs and Ron Smith. Stan Oliver also entertained with songs and Roy Glover on his accordion.

Again we have had to say goodbye to many trainees who, having completed their training, were about to commence their jobs and put that training into practice. Commandant, on behalf of all Staff and those trainees remaining at Ovingdean, wished them every happiness and success.

There have also been several Staff changes this term, including Miss Shentall, who left us to visit the warmer climes of Kenya, Miss Somerset, Entertainments Secretary, Miss Gardner, Assistant Lounge Sister, Miss Smylie, V.A.D., and a number of the Teaching Staff. To all these people we send our best wishes from the Training Centre.

Dick Burman, so well known to countless St. Dunstaners of both wars, retired from St. Dunstan's service at the end of Term. On Monday, April 11th, trainees and staff at the Training Centre gathered in the Lounge and a little presentation ceremony took place, when a gold Braille watch, suitably inscribed, was presented to him. The watch was presented to Dick by Fred Taylor who, in a short speech, reminded us of Dick's long association with St. Dunstan's. Dick, slightly embarrassed, made a suitable reply, which was received with much pleasure by those present. He expressed his very warm thanks and affectionate memories of all those who had contributed to the presentation. We were happy to have with us Mr. White, from Headquarters, and he replied on behalf of Headquarters Staff. Photographs were taken, and after Mr. Cheesman had presented a small occasional cabinet to Dick, the little ceremony came to an end with the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

We were sorry it was not possible to have all Dick Burman's ex-pupils present, but we can assure you he was given a great send-off!

On the last Monday of term a party of Australian trainees went to the House of

Commons, where they heard part of the debate on the Budget and were afterwards entertained to tea by Sir Ian and Lady Fraser.

Breaking up on April 13th, most of the trainees went joyfully home—placing their trust in "Movement Control" and "British Railways." The few remaining, who for various reasons were not able to go home for the holiday, joined in with the excellent holiday programme at West House.

The holiday weather was all we could have wished and everyone returned looking well and sun-burnt, except the unfortunates who had been in the "Frozen North."

The Summer Term amusements began with a party of trainees being invited to a Fancy Dress Ball at the "Savoy Ballroom" given by the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, and our weekly visits to the Palace Pier Theatre have started once more. Several trainees and escorts thoroughly enjoyed the presentation of J. B. Priestley's "An Inspector Calls."

On April 29th we were delighted to welcome to the Training Centre the Begum Liaquat Ali Khan, who is paying a short visit to this Country from her native Pakistan. She was accompanied by the Begum Rahim Toola, Brigadier Rayaud Din (Senior Military Attache for Pakistan) and his wife. Our visitors were intensely interested in all the training, particularly in the handicrafts work, and the Begum mentioned that they have great hopes of being able to provide an organisation for the blind in Pakistan in the not too distant future.

April Test Results

Advanced.—W. Thomas, P. Giffin.

Preliminary.—J. Loach, E. Crook, J. E. Brown, R. Glover, G. Ellis.

Typing.—N. Lowndes, A. C. Wheeler, T. Denmead.

Writing.—R. Glover, J. McGregor (Australian), B. H. Briggs, J. Ormond, J. E. Brown.

★ ★ ★

Dick Burman would like to thank all the Trainees, past and present, for the very handsome gold Braille watch and to thank the Staff for the very nice occasional cabinet presented to him on his retirement.

He says he very much appreciates the kind thoughts and will often think of the happy times spent in the Basket Shop. He sends his very best wishes to all his ex-pupils.

Local Election Candidates

A. Adams, of Balby, and J. F. Leeman, of Louth, were two St. Dunstaners who stood as candidates in the recent Council elections.

J. F. Leeman was particularly unlucky. Standing as a Council House Tenants' candidate, he and another candidate polled the same number of votes for the third vacancy. A draw from a hat was made, and the other candidate was the successful one.

Young St. Dunstaners

Pat, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Jarman, of Llandudno, has passed the final examination of the Law Society and is now a fully qualified solicitor.

Valerie Shread has passed an examination for Ballet Dancing for the Royal Academy of Dancing, and has appeared in several concerts.

Peter Gamble's wife had a daughter on March 28th.

Sussex Downs

*Oh, glorious Downs of Sussex,
Flanked by a sea of blue.
Your tracks were old when
The Legion's tread was new.*

*Oh lovely Downs of Sussex,
Hold fast thy beauty still,
Though human hands would scar thee,
For Mammon's mouth to fill.*

*Oh kindly Downs of Sussex,
How light all troubles lay
When bathed in your raindrops fresh
Or soothed in thy wind's caress.*

*Oh silent Downs of Sussex,
Thy carpet soft I'll tread,
For city streets they tire me
And noisy towns I dread.*

*Oh gentle Downs of Sussex,
What foolishness is mine,
To try to praise with mortal tongue
When God's choir o'er thee sings.*

*Oh peaceful Downs of Sussex,
When soul and body part,
May God in mercy take the one,
The other rest in your heart.*

T. ROGERS.

Births

COPELAND.—On April 10th, to the wife of L. Copeland, of Bournemouth, a son—Lionel Robert.

MCCARTHY.—On May 4th, to the wife of D. McCarthy, of Northampton, a daughter.

MOONEY.—On May 2nd, to the wife of J. J. Mooney, of Oldham, a son—Ian John.

Marriages

DALY—ALLEN.—On April 19th, O. Daly, Brighton, to Miss Allen.

GRIMES.—On March 26th, D. Grimes, of Eastbourne.

LANGLEY.—On December 28th last, J. Langley, of Shotton Colliery.

MAKER.—On April 23rd, C. E. Maker, of Harrobridge.

MURPHY—STANYER.—On May 10th, T. W. Murphy, of Bedlington, to Mrs. Stanyer.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy is extended to the following:

BRIGHT.—To Alfie Bright, of Blackpool, on the death of his father. Mr. Bright senior was a fine old character and was known as the "London Chimney Sweep." He was eighty-two but was working right up to the time of his death. He was "eighty-two years young" as the local Spalding paper put it.

BURNETT.—To W. J. Burnett, of Exeter, whose wife passed away on January 14th.

SMITH.—To A. Smith, of Aspley Estate, Nottingham, whose wife died on January 11th after an illness most bravely borne.

Placements

J. T. Jones, with the Universal Metal Products, Ltd., Salford, drilling plastics.

G. Paddick, as a capstan lathe operator, with Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd.; D. Watkins, as a telephone operator, with the Buckingham Agricultural Committee, Aylesbury.

★ ★ ★

W. F. Shea, of the Royal Marine Commandos, who was blinded at the Anzio beach-head, with his father who served for 25 years with the Royal Marines, cast a wreath on the waters of the Mersey on April 23rd in memory of the Marines who lost their sight at Zeebrugge in the first world war and at Walcheren in the second.

“ In Memory ”

Private Thomas William Grove, *5th King's Own Lancashire Regt.*

With deep regret we record the death of T. W. Grove, of Botley, Oxford.

Wounded in France, he was discharged from the Army in 1915 and came to St. Dunstan's the same year, where he trained as a joiner. For the past three years, however, his health had been failing, and he passed away on April 6th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and grown-up family.

Charles F. Gibson, *R.N.R. Mine Sweeper*

It is with deep regret we record the death of C. F. Gibson, who for so many years has been a patient in the Star and Garter Home at Richmond.

He was wounded in 1920, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until eight years later. Training, however, was out of the question, for he was an invalid for many years.

He remained cheerful and was always interested in the doings of St. Dunstan's, through Miss Morrah who visited him for so long, Miss Lloyd and Mrs. Giorgi.

He leaves a brother and two sisters to whom our sympathy is extended.

Private Samuel Henry Edwards, *2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards*

We record with deep regret the death of S. H. Edwards, of Hackney.

“Sammy” Edwards was wounded at La Basse in 1915, and came to us three years later. He trained as a telephone operator and shorthand typist and was ultimately appointed as telephonist at the Ministry of Labour, Hackney, where he worked for twenty-nine years.

He died very suddenly on April 21st at West House, Brighton, while on convalescent holiday and he was laid to rest in the St. Dunstan's section of Brighton Cemetery.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Edwards and her son and daughter.

Private John Henry Mason, *Training Reserve*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on April 24th, of one of our shopkeepers, J. H. Mason, of Bognor Regis.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1923 after being wounded six years earlier. He was trained as a shopkeeper and he built up for himself a most successful business.

For some time his health had not been good and he was admitted to hospital, but he passed away a few days later.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Gunner John Symonds, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Symonds, of Hunstanton, who passed away in the Sick Ward of our Ovingdean Home on May 14th.

Our St. Dunstaner was a regular soldier who had served in the South African War, but enlisted again when the 1914-1918 war broke out. He was wounded in 1915 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1937, but he was not able to undertake any training. He had been in failing health for some time and he went to West House, but was transferred from there to Ovingdean on January 24th.

He leaves a daughter and four step-children to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

Alexander Griswold Viets, *Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry*

We have heard with deep regret from Col. Edwin Baker of the death on April 22nd of A. G. Viets, of Toronto, one of our earliest Canadians.

Wounded early in 1915, he came to St. Dunstan's the same year for training, but returned later to his own country to take up his pre-war profession of insurance. He distinguished himself by playing an active part in the formation, with Colonel Edwin Baker, of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, of which he remained an active leader until his death, a wise and respected counsellor and colleague.

He had a serious heart attack in December, 1948, and was in hospital until early April. He returned home and was carrying on quietly when he passed peacefully away on April 22nd.

He leaves a widow to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

Mrs. Samuel Edwards would like to thank Matron Ouseley and all at West House for their sympathy and great kindness at the time of her bereavement. She would also like to thank all the St. Dunstaners and other friends who came to the funeral service or sent flowers. She was much touched that so many people showed affection for her husband in this way.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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THE BRITISH LEGION CONFERENCE

THE British Legion Conference was held at Great Yarmouth during Whitsuntide. In his Presidential Address, Sir Ian Fraser commended the initiation ceremony introduced by many branches. No man should enter the Legion or remain a member if he was unable to subscribe to a simple declaration of loyalty to King and Country. (Hear, hear).

Referring to the proposal to raise the affiliation fee from 1s. 6d. to 2s., he said the Legion had two distinct functions, to administer Poppy Day money as trustee of the nation, and to administer the Legion's own internal affairs. The two funds must be kept entirely separate. As costs had risen so greatly he felt inclined to support the new proposal.

Turning to the pensions campaign, Sir Ian traced the history of the Legion campaign in detail. "I prefer a moderate request which we can press home," he said, "to the most eloquent speech that vanishes into thin air." (Hear, hear).

"If you pass the first resolution submitted to you to-day you will be concentrating on something that will bring you a large measure of support, and which will provide a rallying point for all. That is why we are asking for a Select Committee, to which 275 M.P.s committed themselves. The fact that we had 2,800 news cuttings about the campaign showed we had made some impact on public opinion.

"You can support this resolution and also consider others on the agenda, because they are not inconsistent."

The cost of the campaign had been £1,770. On the other side of the balance sheet, in this year and subsequent years, an additional £1,266,000 would be paid by the Ministry to pensioners. These crumbs of comfort conceded by the Ministry were a by-product of the campaign.

He did not claim that all the concessions made would not have been made but for the Legion, but something was granted each time the Legion raised the wider issue.

There was no disagreement that where special needs were shown they should be met, but he himself believed there should be a rise in the basic rate, remembering the handicaps suffered by the disabled and the rise in commodities and wages. "It is time for an adjustment," he said, "on grounds of equity," and he gave detailed figures to show that (1) there are still very many of the severely disabled whose total incomes are not adequate, and that (2) very little has been done for the partially disabled. "We are just as much entitled to make our demands as a result of changed conditions as are the trades unionists." (Cheers).

Loud cheers greeted Sir Ian's assertion, "We are accused of party politics if we do anything. The only way to avoid this charge would be to do nothing. But then we should be failing in our duty."

To make their demands effective they must be realists living in a real world and not in a land of dreams.

He did not blame the Government for putting on a three-line Whip against them, nor did he blame the Opposition for supporting them. (Laughter). Obviously it was the Government's job to think twice about expenditure of all kinds.

"If we know we are not playing party politics," he said, "it doesn't matter very much if other people say we are.

"Less than half the House voted against us. What are we going to do about it? This is the very time Members of Parliament and the public must be made aware of our demand for a Select Committee and of our belief that justice is not being done to our disabled comrades. After the first World War we had a Select Committee which sat quietly, aloof from politics, to consider these matters. In my opinion we ought to have one again after a second major war so that Parliament and the nation may be guided aright and both taxpayer and disabled man may feel that the best thought—perhaps I may say the best generous thought—has been given to this problem. If we haul down our flag because an Election is coming nearer; if we fear criticism and misunderstanding; then indeed we shall forfeit our inalienable right. If we go forward wisely and vigorously, if we seek support and unity in our demand, then we may proudly say we have done our duty." (Loud cheers).

Points from the Conference

Our St. Dunstaner, Ernest Russell, of Leeds, who was recently elected to the Northern Area Council of the British Legion, was among the delegates to the Conference at Great Yarmouth.

Two thousand delegates heard Sir Ian Fraser describe 73-year-old Col. A. Davidson, of Howgill, Carlisle, as "this grand old warrior," when it was learned that he had cycled from his home to attend the Conference, a distance of some 300 miles.

A limbless delegate from Kew Branch drove his motor tricycle all the way from Kew to Great Yarmouth to attend the Conference.

Following Sir Ian's Presidential Address, some twenty resolutions were passed, the effect of which was to support Sir Ian's fighting policy. Among the matters which were also considered which were of interest to St. Dunstaners were:—

Employment of Disabled.—Conference urged the Government to increase the present percentage quota from 3 per cent. to a further 2 per cent.

A resolution was also passed calling on the Government for a definite preference for ex-Service personnel in vacancies in Government employ.

Housing.—The Conference was concerned at the large number of Service personnel who are unable to find reasonable housing accommodation and called upon the Government to direct local authorities to formu-

late a points scheme, with a certain preference to all ex-Service personnel.

Finance.—Resolutions urging a more active policy of nation-wide propaganda concerning the Legion's work, and suggesting a Legion Week, and a Legion newspaper, were carried.

Post-War Credits.—The Conference passed a resolution expressing the opinion that all disabled ex-Service personnel in receipt of a pension of 75 per cent. or over should be allowed to draw their post-war credits now.

Decorations and Medals.—The Conference felt that ex-Servicemen and women who have been awarded decorations for gallantry should have them presented at a public function and not sent by post, as at present.

Football Pools.—The Conference heartily endorsed the Council's action in rejecting the proposed Legion's Football Pool, which was described as unworthy and undesirable.

Pensions and Party Politics.—The Conference deplored the statement made in the House of Commons that there was an element in the British Legion using the pensions question for political reasons. Comrades endeavouring to secure equitable treatment for ex-Service personnel totally disabled were not influenced in any way by party politics.

Legion of Ex-Servicemen.—A motion to form a Legion of ex-Servicemen throughout the United Nations was lost.

Club News

London

On Saturday, June 4th, two coaches set out from Headquarters en route for the Derby. Brilliant sunshine favoured us, and after an excellent lunch, provided by Miss Ibbetson and her band of willing helpers, we settled down to the task of winner-spotting with varying degrees of success, then on to an excellent tea at Banstead, and a drive back in good spirits. A really wonderful day. Congratulations to "Tiny" Fleming for a great piece of organising.

Bridge Notes.—Members of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club please note that the annual Harrogate Bridge Week is fixed for September 10th to 17th. Full particulars from Frank A. Rhodes, Captain-Secretary.

Indoor Activities.—All members are looking forward with great interest to forthcoming finals of darts and domino contests.

Clubs and Houses will shortly be notified as to where they will take place.

Best luck to all teams.

All interested parties have been notified of forthcoming Crib contest and I hope to be soon receiving the names of teams from each Club.

Ovingdean have indeed excelled themselves, as I have already received their team.

Another "Get Together" Dance will take place, as before, on September 16th. Make a note of the date.

Singing and Musical Instruments.—Many members have shown interest regarding the above and would apparently like to re-establish the school as it used to be, but are, it seems, disinclined to write to me giving real evidence of this interest.

Write now, or forever hold your peace, as this matter will not be opened again.

Home Club Notes.—I have to record another win for our darts team, beating the British Legion on our home ground.

One leg each—we are now looking forward to the decider on June 24th—again at home, and I hope to record our first match win.

TINY FLEMING.

Outdoor Sports.—On Tuesday, June 7th, we held a two-mile walking race round the Inner Circle, Regent's Park, and were honoured by the presence of Mr. Harold Whitlock, Olympic champion, who acted

as starter, and the cream of the walking world as judges, etc. Mr. W. J. Harris formed a very good open handicap, and some excellent walking was watched by a large crowd. Results are shown below. The next walk will be in late September when we shall start our winter session with probably a three- or five-mile, so what about more of the new fellows joining us?

In the meantime, rowing is still available on Regent's Park lake, the gymnasium is still going strong, and swimming at the Seymour Baths. Particulars from the Club, or Tommy Gaygan.

By this time all London men should have received the circular about the Summer Sports to be held on July 23rd, at Alperton, so let us have your entries and applications as soon as possible.

Well fellows, the Club is going well so why not join us and meet your old and new friends?

TWO-MILE OPEN HANDICAP WALKING RACE

June 7th, 1949

	Actual Time	H'cap Time	All'ce m. s.	Pos.
C. Williamson ...	19.09	16.29	2 40	1
A. Brown ...	16.39	16.39	scratch	2
T. Gaygan ...	18.15	16.50	1 36	3
W. Miller ...	17.45	17.20	25	4
W. T. Scott ...	20.04	18.04	2 00	5
J. Ellis ...	22.23	18.23	4 00	6

We were sorry that M. Burns had to retire in the first lap owing to leg trouble.

Our thanks are due to the escorts and officials, and to Bedford College for so kindly placing their premises at our disposal.

Liverpool

Here is a news flash for St. Dunstaners of the Merseyside area. A club has now been formed and it is up to the St. Dunstaners in this district to take advantage of the opportunity of renewing old friendships and also to make new ones. To achieve success the club must have your support, so why not come along to our next meeting on Saturday, July 2nd, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Sefton Hall, British Legion Headquarters, Rodney Street, Liverpool.

Hon. Secretary, T. Milner, 78 Radley Drive, Aintree, Liverpool 10.

Derby Sweepstake, 1949

Once again the Derby and another successful Sweepstake. The number of tickets sold this year was 2,382 (2,392 last year). After deducting £9 for printing and postage expenses a sum of £288 15s. 0d. was left for distribution in accordance with the published rules, and the result was as follows:—

1st—**Nimbus.** R. Sheehan, Bridgwater.

Ticket No. 2060.—£144 7s. 6d.

2nd—**Amour Drake.** E. James, Darlington. Ticket No. 1907.—£57 15s. 0d.

3rd—**Swallow Tail.** F. James, Hove. Ticket No. 1583.—£28 17s. 6d.

No fewer than thirty-two horses went to the post, which meant that £57 15s. 0d. had to be divided between twenty-nine "also-rans." Five shillings was added to make a round sum for division, and the following twenty-nine received £2 each:—

W. Brogan, Cambridge	BARNES PARK	...	570
J. H. New, Wolverhampton	BIG WIG	...	1119
G. A. Fone, Watford	BOISSON	...	1421
E. Lake, Scarborough	BROWN ROVER	...	468
G. L. Douglass, Isleworth	BUTTON BOY	...	366
V. Jones, Northwich	CONSERVATIVE	...	771
E. S. Hayter, Kingston-on-Thames	COURIER	...	1541
T. Dickinson, Brighton	ENVER PASHA	...	1653
T. Ashall, Billinge	GADES	...	1214
J. E. Gunn, Gravesend	GRANI	...	1033
H. J. Clapson, Havant	HAPPY MICK	...	437
V. W. Roylance, Manchester	HIGHLANDER III	...	1577
E. J. Squires, Ringwood	HINDOSTAN	...	1815
F. Mowtell, Cramlington	IRAN	...	21
A. E. Tucker, Bristol	JAI HIND	...	1262
G. Jolly, Blackpool	LE TROUBADOUR	...	1064
F. Collinge, Blackpool	LORD DRAKE	...	887
J. Ball, Gateshead	MARCO POLO II	...	1234
A. Reagen, Hastings	MON CHATELAIN	...	938
A. W. Hurrell, Kenley	NEAPOLITAN STAR	...	2014
J. E. Booth, Ashton under Lyne	NORMANTON	...	2033
W. Cromwell, Gloucester	PRIONIUM	...	1432
C. Hobbs, N.W.9	ROYAL EMPIRE	...	696
A. T. Brooks, Bourne-mouth	ROYAL FOREST	...	254
T. Gaiger, Bath	SCOTTISH MERIDIAN	...	1240
G. E. Perry, Wolverhampton	TARGUI	...	2086
E. Walden, S.W.16	VAL DRAKE	...	904
H. E. Raymond, Aldershot	WILLOUGHTON	...	1594
W. T. West, Ramsgate	XERXES	...	136

Those who drew horses which did not take part in the race were: A. Jones, Watford, BLUE SEPAL (1419); W. J. Harris, Fareham, GALLEY PROOF (1870); H. Pollitt, Farnworth, IRISH ABBOTT (396); P. G.

Alvey, E.11, ROC DU DIABLE (1492); J. C. Doughty, Great Yarmouth, THE THRUSTER (50); and Barbara Bell, Ilkley, UGONGO (1669), who was particularly unlucky as her horse injured himself actually on the way to the starting post. A. Hamlett, of Winsford, drew THE FIELD (1374).

The draw took place in the Club Room at Headquarters on the evening of Friday, May 27th, and was made by Frank Rhodes and F. L. Hunt; "Ginger" Taylor turned the drum, names and horses were read out by Mr. Willis, and among others who were present were Miss Ibbetson, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Willis, and the Editor of the REVIEW.

Congratulations to the lucky ones, and to all those who were not so fortunate, better luck next time.

St. Dunstaner's Double Honour

Our warm congratulations to Frederick Martin, of Mintlaw, Aberdeen, who has been appointed one of the four new Deputy-Lieutenants for Aberdeenshire, and has also been appointed Convener of the County. For the last year he has served as Vice-Convener.

In moving his appointment, the retiring Convener, Dr. James Cruickshank, said he did not need to elaborate arguments in favour of the motion. Mr. Martin was known equally to them all. He had journalistic experience which had given him a wide outlook, and had a period in Parliament which had given him authority on legal and administrative questions. The appointment would be received with pleasure throughout the county.

St. Dunstaner Appointed Baillie

Congratulations also to another Scottish St. Dunstaner, T. Irvine, of Moffat, who was made a Baillie following the recent municipal elections. For some years he has served on the Moffat Urban District Council, and this new appointment as Baillie—or as we in the South would say, Magistrate—is a well deserved honour.

Placements

Norman Crane, of Warrington, as an upholsterer at home; G. W. Ellis, of Liverpool, on deburring with the English Electric Co.; E. C. Jager, of Sydenham, in a tobacconist's business; A. Rahim as a shopkeeper at Leytonstone.

St. Dunstaner in Birthday Honours

Amongst the Honours conferred in the King's Birthday List was the award of an M.B.E. to W. Shakspeare, of Birmingham, for services to the British Legion in Sheldon.

Other Honours which will interest St. Dunstaners are the following:—

Dr. J. F. E. Prideaux, C.B.E., Director General of Medical Services at the Ministry of Pensions, who receives a Knighthood.

Major Samuel Warne, of Bodmin, Cornwall, Member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion, who receives an O.B.E.

Dr. A. W. J. Craft, of the Ministry of Pensions Limb-Fitting Centre, Roehampton, who receives an O.B.E.

M. F. E. C. Burchell, National Vice-President, Metropolitan Area, British Legion, who receives an M.B.E.

Mr. Percy L. Way, F.R.C.O., lately Principal of the National Institute for the Blind's School of Physiotherapy, who receives an M.B.E.

Mr. George Chandley, M.M., General Secretary of the British Limbless Ex-Service-men's Association, who receives an M.B.E.

Mr. K. G. Spong, Deputy Director of Pensions, British Legion, an M.B.E.

Capt. Arthur Ernest McConnell, Chairman of Bangor and Co. Down Branch, British Legion, an M.B.E.

Prizewinner at Chelsea Flower Show

From the "Daily Graphic," May 25th:

W. E. Shewell-Cooper, N.D.H., F.L.S., F.R.S.A., Principal of the Horticultural Educational and Advisory Bureau, writes:—

"One of the highlights of the Chelsea Flower Show this year was an exhibit by a St. Dunstaner, Col. M. P. Ansell, D.S.O. He spent most of the war in Germany as a prisoner and has only recently started up as a gerbera expert. Gerberas are like huge daisies on long wiry stems, but the flowers are of all kinds of lovely pastel shades and they usually make 1s. 6d. each wholesale in Covent Garden, so the Colonel told me."

The following day Col. Ansell received the Banksian Award for his exhibit.

Talking Book Library

Meagre May

The month's release is really outstanding, consisting, as it does, of one solitary detective yarn, "Final Curtain." Although many books are already recorded and on order from the manufacturers, the fact remains that the only delivery is this one volume.

"Final Curtain," by Ngaio Marsh, read Lionel Marson, is a good quiet detective story, concerning a trifle of Borgian homicide amidst an old-established, eccentric stage family. My own impression, correct me if I am wrong, is that the reader made more enjoyment from the story than even the author could possibly have visualised. I had more fun than a picnic with the superb reading but, I fear, it is possible that the more solemn amongst us might be irritated by the expressive performance. Congratulations, Mr. Marson!

Perhaps it is a suitable moment to try and summarise the function or attempted function of this column, so here it is:—

The column serves as a rough and ready guide as to the nature of the books pouring, this month trickling, into the library. There is not meant to be any attempt at detailed review, but it is my object to give a quick personal impression, which I hope to keep entirely free from any bias, and serve it up to you as a reasonably fair summary of the subject matter contained in the waxy grooves. More and better listening in the months to come, and don't leave the last record in the baby's pram!

NELSON.

Indian St. Dunstaner Matriculates

Our warmest congratulations to G. K. Unny, late of the Royal Indian Navy (Merchant Service), who has obtained his matriculation (London University). He came to St. Dunstan's two years ago and since then has undergone forty-nine operations, mainly plastic. He has studied for matriculation within the past twelve months, his subjects being English, languages and economics.

★ ★ ★

The daughter of the late W. Last tells us that Miss Nell Gwynne has presented to the Standard Bearer of the local branch of the British Legion a pair of white gloves in memory of our St. Dunstaner.

West House Notes

The summer season is really in full swing and we are getting into our stride with two afternoon drives each week when possible.

On Sunday, May 8th, we were happy to welcome Sir Ian and Lady Fraser once again. Sir Ian told the boys about the impending reconstruction of West House and they were all very relieved to hear that the old site is being retained. In view of this the brewers will not have to close down after all!

On this day we had quite a full programme planned for the afternoon. Twenty-six members of Hastings Toc H, including five St. Dunstaners, came to tea and to play dominoes. The winners were:—

Residents.—Messrs. Day, Duxbury and Hiscock.

Guests.—Messrs. Hobson and Fleetwood, Mr. Trill, of Toc H.

The markers were Miss Morgan, Mrs. Cohn, Mrs. Lamy and Mr. Mercer.

There was such a large congregation at the Service that we had to vacate the Chapel in favour of the Conservatory to fit everyone in.

Later a most enjoyable concert of light music was given by Mrs. Molyneux and her friends, Mr. A. Ovenden and Miss Sinclair. A vote of thanks was given by Andy Anderson.

On Tuesday, May 10th, an old friend brought a darts team along. It was Mr. Catt, who used to mark dominoes on Mondays and Wednesdays for us before he moved nearer to London, and we were very pleased to see him once again. Another darts match, in which the boys played for team place, was held in May 17th for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize.

A very cold but cheery crowd wended their way to Lewes Races on May 23rd. During the week there was another meeting at Lewes and two Brighton meetings. So our racegoers were well satisfied—in more ways than one, we hope.

On May 26th, Mr. Percy Edwards, the bird impersonator of B.B.C. fame, gave a performance at Ovingdean. Amongst the men from West House was Daddy Spires, aged 89, who was one of the most appreciative. The bird-songs and other impersonations were unbelievably realistic.

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 28th, at St. Matthew's Church, of

T. Sattary, South African, and Miss Ethel Snell, of Portsmouth. The Rev. W. J. Taylor officiated and Miss Cathleen Ramsden sang a solo. Mark Sheridan gave the bride away. The reception was held at Clarges Hotel and many friends were there to congratulate them.

At present we have Evan Owen, of Treorchy, staying with us and on Sunday, May 29th, he was the soloist at the Chapel Service, when he sang words of his own composition to the Welsh hymn tune, "Blaen Wern."

From Monty Brooke

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS,

I have received a cheque from Mr. Askew which has been made by a collection among the men of St. Dunstan's on my behalf. It was certainly a great surprise to read about it in the REVIEW, as it seems such a long time to ask them to remember me.

Many sincere thanks to all those who took part. My general health is not too good at the moment, but as soon as I feel better I will get something that will always remind me of the many happy hours I have spent in your company. I hope we will meet again at another St. Dunstan's Reunion.

With many thanks to you all, and my best wishes to you and your families,

Yours sincerely,

43 Sunnybank Road,
Griffithstown, Pontypool.

MONTY.

Lackaday Ebbie Gray

*My reply herewith to Ebbie Gray,
With whom I walked one sunny day
To a visit where I had never seen
A village known as Rottingdean.
The walk was long, the sun set high,
Salt sea breeze made us quite dry.
He said: "I know the local pub."
Which brings the point, and the rub.
I gave him his head, a move quite rash,
I needed beer in return for cash.
So he rushed me without pause
Through a massive pair of doors.
But, it was not the place where the thirsty drank,
'Twas the counter of the local bank.
Now if to Ebbie cash is beer,
I really think him rather queer.
If he can stay his thirst with £.s.d.
I conclude, I must handsome be.*

JOHN A. MUDGE.

Reunions

A small tea party for Cornish St. Dunstaners was held at Truro on May 5th, and two days later a very large meeting took place at Bristol for men of the remaining West Country and South Wales areas. Mr. S. Jacobs, County Chairman of Bristol British Legion, and Mr. R. Magill, Chief Regional Officer of the Ministry of Pensions War Pensions Welfare Service, were among the guests.

The Irish Reunions were held at Cork on May 17th, Dublin on May 19th, and Belfast on May 20th, with Mr. Mackay and Mr. Macauley at all of them. Mr. Humphries, Area Chairman of the British Legion, and Mr. O'Brien, Area Secretary, British Legion, were at the Dublin meeting, which Miss Arkle, our Appeals Organiser in the Republic of Ireland, also attended, while at Belfast our good friends Captain Bennett, of the Legion, Lady Turner and Miss Turner were most welcome visitors.

At Bedford on June 2nd, Capt. J. M. Tingey, Secretary of the Bedford Branch of the Legion, was the guest of honour.

Messages of good wishes and of pride in the achievements of St. Dunstaners of both wars were sent to all the meetings by Sir Ian, whose duties at Headquarters and at the House of Commons prevented him attending the gatherings.

Young St. Dunstaners

Winifred Smith, of Guildford, has passed her State examinations and is now a State Registered Nurse.

Philomena Sephton has gained her Elementary Teachers' Certificate for Dancing. The examiners were Madame Adeline Genée and Miss Phyllis Bedells.

Christine McLoughlin broadcasts again on July 16th, from 6.10 to 6.25.

Marriages

On June 4th, Harry Dennison, York, to Miss Iris Foster.

On June 4th, Cynthia Stew, Tewkesbury, to Gerald Coopey.

In April last, Elizabeth Hill, Devizes, to Wallace Bentley.

On June 18th, Joan Blakely, Liverpool, to Robert Snape.

On June 4th, Bernard Burnett, Enfield, to Miss Doris Maud Powell.

On June 1st, William Calvert, Ormskirk, to Miss Betty Pennington.

"Thank You, Argentina!"

This is the salutation in the letter of one recipient of a food parcel from the St. Dunstan's Buenos Aires Committee, and it has been made the headline of a short article published in the "*Buenos Aires Standard*."

The Chairman and Members of the Committee have written asking that their very real appreciation of all the delightful letters they have received from St. Dunstaners may be made known to the writers through the columns of the REVIEW. They are greatly touched by these expressions of thanks for parcels and also by the generous offer of baskets and trays. Although it is impossible for them to reply to the letters, they would like it widely known how much pleasure they have given and how greatly the members of the Committee would value articles made by St. Dunstaners. Unfortunately, however, the present Customs restrictions make it quite impossible for them to accept the very generous suggestion made by so many of you.

It may interest some of you to know that extracts from a number of the letters have been published in the "Thank You, Argentina" article, particularly those from St. Dunstaners who have visited Argentina at some time, or are perhaps now engaged in making some useful commodity which is exported there.

National Library Reading Competition

Congratulations to Frank A. Rhodes, who won second prize in the recent Reading Competition organised by the National Library, Class C—those who had learnt braille after the age of sixteen.

Seven St. Dunstaners from Ovingdean also took part in the competition. Matron Pain and Miss Ramshaw accompanied them and they had a most interesting day. They were not successful in winning a prize, but the examiners encouraged and congratulated them on their performance.

Grandfathers

F. Stratton, Shirebrook, Derbyshire, and J. H. Smith, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

May I, space permitting in the REVIEW, ask St. Dunstaners everywhere—please give special care to your personal appearance, remember that “Respect commands Respect.” Do not go to work with two or three days’ growth of beard, or a dirty collar, or with the accumulation of cigarette ash or evidence of previous meals in the shape of spots on your clothes. You are letting your wife and children down, you are letting St. Dunstan’s down, and above all you are letting yourself down.

I hear of chaps at Brighton and Blackpool who complain that no one will take them out, and when one delves into the matter you find that very often the individual concerned considers that because he is away from home a growth of beard, ungroomed face and unpolished shoes do not matter. Speaking from 32 years of blindness I can assure all those to whom this applies, it matters very much. I know, for on one or two rare occasions I neglected my personal appearance and I paid the penalty, and was taught my lesson.

The Staff might help in this matter, but the issue is so delicate, that I am almost glad I am blind and a St. Dunstaner, and not one of the Staff. FRANK A. RHODES.

DEAR EDITOR,

Concerning the Chairman’s Notes on lonely blind men, I think the following is clear.

1. Neither can enter each other’s world. We blind men have been in their world and we are thus able to meet them half way, or perhaps more.

2. Sighted people do not often realise that they can help blind men with walks, etc.

3. We are a tired and hard-working nation and there is not a lot of time to spare.

4. Make your wants known, for at heart the Englishman is the kindest man on earth. Here I endorse Paul Baker’s idea of broadcasts and newspaper articles.

With regard to the use of “Mr.” in the REVIEW, I think that this is a case of being practical first, and then seeing how close to the Chairman’s directive it is possible to get.

It really concerns relations between staff and St. Dunstaners only, and would hardly refer to a paper produced by St. Dunstan’s Headquarters for the use of St. Dunstaners only.

On looking through the REVIEW carefully I think the position can be summed up as follows:—

Chairman’s Notes and Letters for the Editor.—These are written by Sir Ian and other St. Dunstaners, and it would not be wise to alter them around.

West House, Ovingdean, Blackpool, and London Club Notes.—I feel it is quite in order to continue as we have been doing. It is clear who is a St. Dunstaner and who is staff.

Births, deaths, marriages.—Even in the daily papers, “Mr.” is not used, therefore initials again would suffice.

I am a conservative type of fellow and as such I do not welcome a lot of changes and alterations.

Taking the matter as a whole, I think that the present mode of setting out the REVIEW is most satisfactory. It is clear and easy to read, which is the main object. We can clearly see who are staff and who are St. Dunstaners from the present layout, and I feel that there is no real reason for a change in the set-out.

The London Press seldom resorts to the use of “Mr.” except in the question of Cabinet Ministers and M.P.s. But I used to laugh myself at the reference right up to the end of the war to Herr Hitler. If you follow the lines of the past issues I think you will be keeping the spirit of the directive and there can be no ground for complaint from anyone.

Yours sincerely,
Witham, Essex. GEORGE MORTIMER.

DEAR EDITOR,

I agree that the men should be addressed as “Mr.” when writing to them. I would go further than Sir Ian and say all, including even the captains and majors, because after all, St. Dunstan’s is for *ex-Service men and women*, and what did Robert Burns say? “The pith o’ sense, the pride o’ worth, are higher ranks than a’ that.”

In the REVIEW I suggest we go on in the old way using Christian names, but not “Mr.” No member of a profession would dream of saying of another member, “Mr. So-and-So,” and we are all members of the same happy band.

As far as writing to the REVIEW is concerned, I think all letters and articles should be signed by their full signatures, and not by initials or fancy nom-de-plumes.

Yours sincerely,
Ilford. JOCK MACFARLANE.

DEAR EDITOR,

Except for an isolated few, it does not appear to be the wish of St. Dunstaners to be addressed as "Mr." by the staff at West House.

To me, the spirit of comradeship which has existed so long between the men and staff would inevitably put up a barrier, a sorry day in the present scheme of things.

Again, is it necessary for the use of service titles? If so, then why not Corporal, Sergeant, and so on? The use of Service titles may be all right in the British Legion or the House of Commons to maintain a standard of snobbishness, but among us of St. Dunstan's let us continue upon a basis of friendship between us and the staff irrespective of age.

Yours sincerely,

Brighton.

W. A. MUGGERIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

As a St. Dunstaner of the first war, and for many years a physiotherapist in Glasgow, I am now a managing director of a cosmetic business. My firm is building up a very nice local trade, but in order to spread our products all over the country, my company directors and I would like to make an offer to St. Dunstaners' wives and daughters. This is to let them have now, and in the future, a full-size jar of each of the creams which we manufacture—vanishing, cleansing and hand—at the special rate of ten shillings, which includes postage. Nothing but the finest quality materials are used in the creams. Lady Fraser has tried them and has very kindly said they are excellent and strongly recommends them. The usual price of these creams in the shops would be 13s. 9d.

We shall also be delighted to make this offer to any member of St. Dunstan's staff who would like to take advantage of it.

My company is the Eastern Perfumery Company, Ltd., and applications should be addressed to me personally at the office of the company, 6 Whitehill Gardens, Glasgow, E.1.

Yours sincerely,

A. G. FISHER.

Exhibition For Blind People

A fascinating Exhibition is just ending at the Science Museum, South Kensington. It is an exhibition which has been arranged solely for the blind and partially-sighted by the Science Museum and the National

Institute. Mr. G. Tilghman Richards, official lecturer in the engineering section, tried an experiment with a party of St. Dunstaners from Ovingdean. It worked so well that the idea was extended.

The sixty exhibits included models and apparatus relating to transport, mining, the textile industries, hand and machine tools, time measurement, meteorology, printing and typewriting.

The exhibition closed on June 26th.

The late "Mike" Bowen

The Rev. A. W. Blaxall, of South Africa, has sent us a most moving Memoir, which he has compiled of the late Advocate R. W. Bowen, who was better known to all fellow-St. Dunstaners as "Mike" Bowen. The Memoir costs 2s. 6d. and is published by the South African National Council for the Blind. If any St. Dunstaner would like a copy the Editor of the REVIEW will be glad to arrange for a copy to be sent to him.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," June, 1919:

Since the last issue of the REVIEW appeared, I have had the honour of presenting to Queen Alexandra, the Patroness of St. Dunstan's, a deputation from the Federation of Grocers' Associations, the members of which gave Her Majesty a cheque for £5,480, making a grand total of £10,000 which the members of the Federation have subscribed for the express purpose of purchasing and equipping West House, the Brighton Holiday and Convalescent Home, which many of the men of St. Dunstan's know so well.

Before so very long, St. Dunstan's, as a training centre, will have finished its work, and the various London establishments will have returned to their original uses, or, in the case of the Bungalow Annexe, Workshops and Class-rooms, have melted away, largely, I suppose, into smoke emanating from firewood.

But West House will remain as a Convalescent and Holiday Home for the use of men of St. Dunstan's who reside in the Southern Counties. Similar places to it will exist in the Midlands and in the North Country, and I feel quite sure that these Convalescent and Holiday Homes will be greatly appreciated by old St. Dunstaners. (Sir Arthur Pearson—NOTES BY THE CHIEF).

Ovingdean Notes

Since our last report from the Training Centre, we have enjoyed another month of varied activities!

On May 5th we had another of Mr. Cheesman's excellent dances at the Arlington Hotel, when thirty trainees and partners spent an enjoyable and jolly evening—with plenty of the usual "lovely grub" associated with Mr. Cheesman's entertainments. Later in the month he also organised a steamer trip on the upper reaches of the Thames—from Marlow to Windsor. On this occasion a party of about twenty trainees and escorts went by bus to Marlow, where they were entertained by the Marlow W.V.S. and an excellent accordionist then joined the party and played whilst the Ovingdean party enjoyed beer, tea, sandwiches and cakes. Thus refreshed, the steamer duly hove in sight, and everyone trooped aboard to join the remainder of the party invited, namely, men from Roehampton and East Grinstead Hospitals, etc. The trip down the river was glorious and the sun favoured us most of the day. Glyn Jones spoke for the Training Centre party when he thanked Mr. Cheesman, of London, and all those who helped him to make this outing possible, for the wonderful trip they had organised for St. Dunstaners and other ex-Servicemen.

The following week the Staff of Plummer Roddis entertained some forty trainees to an excellent party. Our men were met from the coaches by dozens of the "Plummer Roddis Girls"—many men having as many as two or three escorts which they all thoroughly enjoyed! It was certainly a most delightful evening, the non-dancers playing dominoes; there was also a "Quiz" with forfeits, and trainees and partners had tongue twisters and songs to sing—to the general amusement of those present. Needless to say there have been many telephone calls between "Plummers" and St. Dunstan's since, and "Mary" in the Underwear Dept. and "Sally" in the Gowns remain mysteries yet to be solved! Our best thanks go to all Plummer Roddis Staff, especially Mrs. Tipper and Miss Sessions, for organising everything so well. **May** we have many more such parties.

Towards the end of the month the Debating Society held two very interesting

discussions. The first, "That Wales should have Home Rule," proved that we were all undoubtedly in favour that they should! A delightful evening was held at Roedean School, when the subject for debate was "That people aged 21 are not qualified to vote." This time the motion was defeated—but only by 49 votes to 47.

St. Dunstan's was represented on the occasion of the Gunners' Rally at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, May 28th, and also at the unveiling of the plaque on the existing R.A. Memorial at Hyde Park Corner in the memory of the Gunners who fell in the 1939-45 World War. This ceremony was, of course, performed by H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth. Incidentally, we hear on very good authority that one trainee became completely tongue-tied and embarrassed when H.R.H. spoke to him—but he has since decided he would like to ask for her to be on the "Escort List."

Shooting.—The individual monthly knock-out competition for May was won by Steve Minter who scored 49 plus 4 against Munro Donald's 48 plus 2.

The team knock-out was won by Dormitory 5, who scored 190 plus 6 against Dormitory 3B's score of 186 plus 3.

A record for team shooting was set up on May 30th by the staff team, who scored 198 plus 8 out of a possible 200 plus 20. This team consists of Messrs. J. Mahoney, F. Ralph, J. Walch and K. Gattrell.

Darts.—The monthly darts competition for May was won by F. Ralph, who beat T. Hill in the T/B Competition, and P. Appleby, who beat T. Brown in the S/S Competition.

"Vision Ahead"

Under this title, Air Commodore P. Huskinson, who was blinded by a bomb at the height of his career as director of armament development in the Ministry of Aircraft Production, gives a vivid description of his well-filled life. He begins with hair-breadth escapes over the lines in France in World War I, he records the development of our air armaments between the wars and during World War II, and he tells modestly and simply of his four years' work as President of the Air Armament Board, since he was blinded.

"Vision Ahead" is published by Werner Laurie, and is 11s. 6d.

Braille Readers in the North West

Will St. Dunstaners in the North West who have hitherto received their braille literature from the London Library please note that arrangements have now been made for the Manchester Library to take over this service. Miss Hewer, the National Library for the Blind, St. John Street, Manchester, will be glad to hear from St. Dunstaners in the area.

St. Dunstaner To Fight Rheumatism

From the "New Beacon":

Major Edward Dunlop. O.B.E., G.M., who was blinded in a training accident in England during the recent war, has been appointed Executive Director of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society. Major Dunlop has been a key man in the work of the Disabled Veterans' Association on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Canadian Ex-Service Men, and was largely responsible for the development and direction of its vocational rehabilitation scheme. His idea that a disabled ex-Service man should be considered for employment on his ability rather than on his disability has found favour with many employers in Canada.

On The Air

On June 10th one of the items in Woman's Hour in the Light Programme was a visit to N.I.B. and to St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean.

The B.B.C. Staff were greeted at our Training Centre by Matron Pain and the work of St. Dunstan's for blinded women of the Services was explained.

National Laying Test

Report for the Eighth Month from
25th April, 1949, to 22nd May, 1949.
4 weeks, 28 days

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Bagwell, Philip ...	832
2	Gregory, T. D. ...	813
3	Young, W. E. ...	811
4	Holmes, Percy ...	781
5	MacIntosh, Charles ...	776
6	Webb, William ...	745
7	Chaffin, Albert ...	732
8	Woodcock, W. J. ...	695
9	Smith, W. Alan ...	663
10	Jarvis, Albert ...	628
11	Carpenter, E. H. ...	623
12	Clarke, T. ...	435
Average per bird to date,		126.29

Births

BAILEY.—To the wife of J. Bailey, of Guildford, on March 17th, a daughter—Penelope Susan.

BELL.—On June 10th, to the wife of D. Bell, of Edinburgh, a daughter—Diana Christine.

BENTLEY.—On June 9th, to the wife of F. Bentley, of Birmingham, a son—Colin.

BROUGHAM.—On May 3rd, to the wife of T. Brougham, of Liverpool, a son—Barry.

CRADDOCK.—On May 11th, to the wife of R. A. Craddock, of Warrington, a daughter—Denise.

EVANS.—On May 21st, to the wife of W. Evans, of Shildon, Co. Durham, a son—David Ian.

MCCARTNEY.—On May 22nd, to the wife of H. McCartney, of Belfast, a daughter.

MOORE.—On May 16th, to the wife of A. Moore, of Oxhey, a son—Kevin Alan.

PHILLIPS.—On April 21st, to the wife of R. Phillips, of Shoreham, a son—Ronald William.

SAYWELL.—On June 9th, to the wife of P. J. Saywell, of Leamington Spa, a daughter—Cherill June.

SIMMONS.—On May 24th, to the wife of J. Simmons, of Ramsgate, a daughter—Jane Marian Paul.

WATKINSON.—On April 17th, to the wife of F. Watkinson, of Beverley, a daughter—Patricia Marguerite.

WINDLEY.—On June 13th, to the wife of H. Windley, of Hull, a son.

Marriages

MILLER—FINNEY.—On June 11th, W. Miller (telephonist at 1 South Audley Street), to Miss Doreen Finney, late of the Appeals Department.

SATTARY—SNELL.—On May 28th, at Brighton, T. A. Sattary, of South Africa, to Miss Ethel Snell.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Benton, Altrincham, June 6th; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Illingworth, Wirral, June 7th; Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Harriss, Billericay, June 9th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Henry, S.W.15, September 29th, 1947 (notice only now received).

“ In Memory ”

Private C. Negus, *Royal West Kents*

With deep regret we record the death of C. Negus, of Wellingborough.

Enlisting on April 1st, 1916, he was wounded at Ypres, and he came to St. Dunstan's at the end of 1917. He trained as a basket-maker and he carried this work on right up to the time of his death—a very fine craftsman.

Although he had suffered from heart trouble for some time his death was very sudden; he died two days after admission to hospital.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers at the funeral, at which Mr. Sherratt represented St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Negus.

Corporal Tommy Miles, *Royal Army Service Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of Tommy Miles, of Middlesborough.

Tommy served with the R.A.S.C. from November, 1914, and was wounded by an aerial torpedo. He was discharged from the Army in August, 1918, but did not come to us until 1924 when he trained as a netter.

His health had been failing for a long time, and he was admitted to West House as a permanent Annexe case. He was transferred to Ovingdean and he died there on Easter Sunday.

The funeral took place at the Church of St. John the Baptist, where a Requiem Mass was said for him at which many St. Dunstan's friends were present. He was laid to rest in St. Dunstan's section of the Cemetery at Brighton.

We particularly extend our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Wilson, of Middlesborough, with whom Tommy made his home for many years.

Private W. A. Westell, *Honourable Artillery Company*

It is with deep regret we record the death of W. A. Westell, of Liverpool. Enlisting in April, 1917 he was wounded shortly afterwards, and he came to St. Dunstan's in 1918. He trained as a shorthand typist and took up a post with the firm by whom he had previously been employed. He remained there until February of this year, when he retired for reasons of health. His employers thought most highly of him—indeed, he upheld both in his home and business life the best traditions of St. Dunstan's, and gained the affection and esteem of all with whom he came in contact.

A wreath from the Chairman and his comrades at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral.

Our sympathy goes out to his widow, son and daughter.

Arthur Belcher, *Royal Arsenal*

With deep regret we record the death of Arthur Belcher, of Hampton, Middlesex, who was wounded by an explosion at the Royal Arsenal in 1917, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1929.

He trained in netting and wool rugs, and worked at this for many years, but for some time he had been in failing health, and he passed away on May 20th.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his friends at St. Dunstan's. He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Albert H. Wernham, *Royal Army Service Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of A. H. Wernham, of Bracknell.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1919, two years after his discharge, and he trained in mats, netting and wool rugs, and also for a time did factory work.

For some time, however, he had been in failing health, and his death occurred on June 4th.

A wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Wernham and her family.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Wilson sincerely thank the Matron and staff of Ovingdean and West House for all their kindness to their late friend, Tommy Miles.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

CIMA.—To A. W. Cima, of Wraysbury, whose wife passed away on June 10th after a long illness.

LANGHAM.—To J. Langham, of Arnold, Notts., whose wife passed away after a long and painful illness on May 22nd.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 363—VOLUME XXXIII

JULY, 1949

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Voluntary Work

"CROWDS waited tensely outside the North Ward polling station in Louth last night. A recount was being made to decide the winner of the ward's third seat.

"The result was that Ratepayers' candidate, W. R. Burr, retiring member, and the Council House Tenants' candidate, J. Leeman, blind World War One ex-serviceman, both polled an equal number of votes.

"On a draw of the two names from a hat, conducted by Returning Officer, Ald. A. E. Maxey, Mr. Burr was elected to the Council."

This is an extract from a Lincolnshire newspaper following the widespread Local Authorities Election last May.

At the end of June comes the news that Mr. Leeman stood again at a by-election and was elected.

A great many St. Dunstaners are councillors and all will join in congratulating the latest addition to this list.

Councillor Leeman is a basket maker, won the D.C.M. in the First War, and was a sergeant in the 8th Lincolnshire Regiment.

The Representation of the Peoples Act, 1872, provided that where there is a tie in the voting at an election, the Returning Officer shall give a casting vote or the candidates shall cast lots. From time to time there has been much argument when the Returning Officer has used his casting vote and it put him in an invidious position. To meet this, the 1948 Representation of the Peoples Act has taken away the casting vote and declares that the Returning Officer shall "decide between the candidates by lot and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote." Thus, the use of the element of chance to determine human affairs is recognised, following, no doubt, ancient custom to which frequent reference is made in the Bible.

We reported recently that Mr. Fred Martin, C.B.E., a Scottish St. Dunstaner, had been elected Convener of the Aberdeenshire County Council. This is a remarkable appointment for a blinded man because the Convener, or Chairman as we would call him in England and Wales, of a County Council has to preside at statutory meetings, call speakers as they "catch his eye," deal with points of order, and so on—tasks which often tax the quickness as well as the wisdom of the seeing.

In the field of voluntary public work there are many openings for the expression of a man's individuality and the use of his talents in the service of the community, and, as has been shown, blindness does not necessarily bar a determined and able man from full participation.

In social work, too, are many opportunities, and a great many St. Dunstaners hold office in the branches and other elements of the British Legion. The latest of these that I heard of was the case of Mr. Ernest Russell, one of the first St. Dunstaners to arrive at Brighton in the early months of the last war, who has lately been elected a member of the Northern Area Council of the Legion. And the figure of Captain William Appleby, O.B.E., one of the founders of the British Legion, comes to mind. Mr. Godfrey Robinson, M.C., is Vice-Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, and Mr. Rex Furness, Chairman of Warrington and Widnes Society for the Blind.

Many who do not hold office also devote themselves to voluntary work, and I call to mind Mr. W. T. Scott, who gives so much of his spare time talking to and helping the deaf-blind, and Mr. Norman Perry, who interests himself in the well-being of crippled children in Grimsby.

Lucky is the man who enjoys his daily task and earns a living thereby; but lucky also is he who works for nothing save the satisfaction of doing a job that is appreciated. Many blind men I know gain much happiness by trying to do things for other people, not only in local government or social service, but also in ordinary day-to-day contact with their neighbours.

We have to take so much by way of help from other people—though we should never take it for granted—that there seems to me to be an obligation upon us to give back what we can, and there is a great reward in the friendship that comes our way as a kind of unsolicited and unexpected bonus.

Eastern Braille

I know nothing about Eastern languages at first hand, but believe them to possess a complex and difficult script, though many have been adapted to the Western alphabet. Very few people in the East can read at all, and an even smaller percentage of the blind are literate. The effort of St. Dunstan's in India, which was so ably directed by Sir Clutha Mackenzie, was a notable example of what can be done to bring a measure of release from mental imprisonment, and it is to be hoped that the gospel will spread. Sir Clutha Mackenzie himself, since he gave up the work in India, has continued to study the development of a system of braille reading and writing suitable for the main Eastern languages, and he has recently been invited to go to Paris for two months to attend a conference of U.N.E.S.C.O., where he will be advising on this subject. This interesting appointment follows a request by the Government of India that the subject of the use of braille in Asia and Africa should be put on the Agenda, and they specially asked for Sir Clutha to be there.

Triplets

Mr. S. Doy, of Ashford, Kent, and Mrs. Doy, are the parents of triplets, three sons being born to them on June 20th. This notable event would put them in the news whenever it occurred. However, I learned of it the same morning as I was reading the Government's Population Report, which warns us that the average family must consist of 2.4 children if the nation is to continue to reproduce itself; so it occurred to me to congratulate this family on beating the statisticians in one go.

Mr. Doy was one of the prisoners of war who had his early blind training in Lord Normanby's prison school in Germany.

IAN FRASER.

Club News

London

The London Club will be closed for the month of August, and will reopen on September 1st with a Domino Drive, and that will commence what we hope will be a successful and entertaining winter season.

It is with some regret that I have to inform you that the Sports Day, fixed for July 23rd, at Alperton Sports Ground, will have to be cancelled owing to the lack of support. Much time and money has been spent on organising this Sports Day, and the only thing needed to make it a really good day's outing was the wholehearted support of Club members, but entries have been so few that the committee feel that it is impossible to go on with the arrangements. Personally, I think crowds would have turned up on the day, but were too apathetic to write in for tickets. Well, the blame rests with the Club members.

On Sunday, June 19th, fourteen fellows and escorts enjoyed a ramble to Leith Hill and were entertained to tea by Mrs. Spurway. Well, I say fourteen, but one member very self-sacrificingly offered to stay at the bottom of the hill and guard the handbags, but it was very enjoyable and we would like another soon.

On the 30th there was a Coach Trip to Folkestone, wives only, and by their jubilant spirits on the return they all seemed to have had a good time. They were all laden down with fruit and rock, and all looking very brown. But I cannot see eye to eye with the fellow who said "Let's send them away for a week."

PERCY ASHTON.

Bridge

The thanks of the Club are extended to Mr. A. Field and his assistants in undertaking the difficult task of running the "Teams of Four" competition for us, and we offer sincere congratulations to the winning team: Messrs. Wiltshire, Douglas, Shakespeare and Miller, and to the runners-up: Messrs. Downs, Brown, Thompson and White.

NOTE.—There will be no Bridge on July 30th, nor during the month of August. Please let me have your names for the Bridge Drive on September 3rd.

FRANK RHODES (Captain).

Indoor Activities

Bonny Baby (Photo) Contest :—

Will all interested please forward photographs to me. All entries to reach me not later than Monday, September 19th.

There will be three age competitions:—

A. 6 months—18 months.

Boys and Girls, Weight and Exact Age.

B. 18 months—3 years.

Boys and Girls, Weight and Exact Age.

C. 3 years—5 years.

Boys and Girls, Weight and Exact Age.

St. Dunstaners' children and grandchildren only.

Lady Pearson, Lady Stern and Dr. John Hunt have kindly consented to judge competitions.

Home Club Notes

Another Get-Together Dance will be held at Chenil Galleries, Chelsea, on September 16th. Dancing 7.30—11 p.m. to Ernie Cookson and his band. Fully licensed bar and light refreshments. Spot prizes. Admission 2s. 6d.

Tickets available from Mr. B. Willis, Miss Ibbetson, or by post.

We entertained members of the British Legion Wembley Branch at the Club on Friday, 24th, for the decider of three dart matches. After a hotly contested match we were beaten wanting only 15 to win.

Miss Ibbetson supplied refreshments, as only she can, and this rounded off a most enjoyable evening.

On Saturday, 25th, a party of six members, assisted by Miss Angela Lynch and Miss Westcott, visited Wembley and gave a very fine concert to the British Legion.

I use the medium of the REVIEW to thank all who took part.

TINY FLEMING.

Outdoor Sports

I am greatly disappointed that all our efforts for the Sports Day have come to naught, as announced above. It seems that the only active part of the Sports Section is the walking, which will start up again early in September with a 5-mile walking race. The winter programme will be published later.

The Regatta is off, for the same reason as the Sports Day, although I doubted very much if we would be able to hold one this year, but boats are available on the lake at Regent's Park throughout August. The Gym will be closed, though, as will the Swimming Baths. Perhaps we shall do better next year.

T. GAYAN.

Reunions

Maidstone Reunion was held on June 8th and this very happy and successful meeting was presided over by Lt. Col. Eric Ball, Senior Member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council. Also present as guests were Mr. H. C. Mallett, Managing Director of Tilling & Stevens, Ltd., of Maidstone, Colonel Sheldon, of the Paper Mill, Aylesford, and Mr. W. Welch, Chairman of the Maidstone British Legion. Mr. Welch described the St. Dunstaners present as "this cheerful company."

Colonel Ball also presided at Winchester a week later, when St. Dunstaners from Portsmouth, Portchester, Fareham and the Isle of Wight were among the guests who assembled for lunch at the Guildhall.

At both these meetings, a message of good wishes was received from Sir Ian Fraser, whose duties at Headquarters and the House of Commons made it impossible for him to be there.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were, however, present at the Grimsby meeting, which took place on July 2nd at the Town Hall, to which they were welcomed by the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. Margaret Larmour. Mr. Doughty deputised for Mr. Mackay at this meeting, and among the guests who were present were Major Bloomer, Chairman of Lincolnshire County Committee of the Legion, and the Chairmen of the two Grimsby Branches of the Legion.

St. Dunstan's Greyhound Wins

From the *Evening News*, June 23rd:

Man who got the biggest thrill at Wimbledon Stadium last night was 29-year-old Irishman, Patrick Campbell, although he did not see one of the eight races. His greyhound hurdler, Winged Heels, came with a great finish to win his first race at the track. But Mr. Campbell, blinded in France, where he served with the Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1940, followed the race through the eyes of his wife, Dorothy, who gave him a running commentary.

His excitement heightened when the judge called for a photograph to decide the result. Few people near the line thought Mr. Campbell's dog had won, and he could hear the bookmakers calling the odds against Winged Heels. The camera, however, proved most of the experts to be wrong.

Other News

T. Kent, of Chelmsford, performed the opening ceremony at the British Legion Fete at Chelmsford, in aid of the War Memorial Fund.

T. Barton's spaniel, Linda of Long Mynd, continues her successes. She was awarded a medal as the best reserve bitch at the Scarborough Show.

Harry Pierrepont, of Boston, has become the owner of a guide dog, presented to him by a number of his old "Terrier" friends. The Mayor of Boston was present at the handing over ceremony, which took place at the Drill Hall, and the *Boston Standard* gave a two-column notice, and a photograph, as a tribute to Harry and "Boy."

Arthur H. Finney, who served with the 111th H.A.A. (R.A.), has been awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "*St. Dunstan's Review*," July, 1919:

"St. Dunstan's was well represented at Marlow Regatta on June 21st. The following three crews were entered for the Maiden Fours:—

"*St. Dunstan's (A)*: Stroke, B. Robinson; 3, W. McLurg; 2, F. Hackett; bow, F. Ashworth.

"*St. Dunstan's (B)*: Stroke, Christian; 3, J. Hardy; 2, C. A. Fankhauser; bow, J. New.

"*St. Dunstan's Officers*: Stroke, W. M. Millard; 3, W. W. Hitchon; 2, D. Gibson; bow, E. L. Parry.

"Other entries were Marlow R.C., Henley R.C. and Reading R.C. The final between Marlow R.C. and the two St. Dunstan's Men Boats resulted in a win for Marlow by three lengths, 'B' Team came second.

"A London newspaper correspondent wrote: No event aroused more interest and enthusiasm than the maiden fours in which blind oarsmen figured prominently. These blinded soldiers from St. Dunstan's reach well forward and put plenty of vigour into their stroke. Anyone who has never seen these gallant lads row should visit one of the up-river regattas to witness the spectacle with his own eyes."

Witnessing Wills

In case any St. Dunstaner is asked to witness a Will for a relative or friend, we remind readers that a blind person cannot witness a Will or a Codicil, on the grounds that he or she cannot actually see that the document is signed.

This has been reaffirmed by a recent decision in the High Court.

Blackpool Notes

Blackpool—like the rest of the country—has been basking in glorious sunshine for several weeks, and holiday boys at the Blackpool Home have taken every opportunity to enjoy the sea breezes as well as get really sunburnt.

We omitted to mention in the May REVIEW the happy outings—and the not so happy ones—we have had recently.

On Good Friday evening a very jolly party boarded a coach for a refreshing trip round the Fylde—as this particular part of Lancashire is called. After about two hours of cheery singing, throats became dry and liquid refreshment was indicated, so we stopped at the New Holly Hotel, at Fawton, where a room was cleared for our party.

On two occasions small parties have been to Haydock Park Races, but there were no signs of “winning ways” on the return of the racegoers. These may be called the not so happy outings.

On May 21st a very happy afternoon was spent at Ingleton Water Falls. June 8th was another red-letter day when a happy party went to Scorton and enjoyed a delicious tea of home-made goodies—this was repeated on June 24th to celebrate the anniversary of St. Dunstan's invading Blackpool and taking over “Concord.” June 14th was a very special day—we had our first trip of the summer season to the Lakes district. Leaving home at 1.30, we took a Fylde tour through Lancaster and on to Carnforth, where we stopped at the Carnforth Hotel for an “awakener”—a very welcome cup of tea. On, then, to Ambleside, where a motor launch met us to carry us down the ever wonderful Lake Windermere. The owner of this particular launch knows us well, and is always happy to make the sail interesting. As skipper he points out to us all the interesting spots on the lake. These include the hangars, where the Sunderland flying boats were assembled before being tested on the lake.

Tired, hungry, but very happy, we reached home about 10.45 p.m., and after a good supper retired to dream of happy hours aboard the lugger.

This was the first 1949 visit to the Lakes but, weather permitting, more such trips are promised before the end of the season.

On June 18th a small party paid a visit to Knott End—this included a short but amusing ferry crossing of the river Wyre from Fleetwood.

On June 27th a party went to the Home of the Local Blind, where Charlie Chester and his Gang gave an excellent entertainment, and on the following evening a visitor played the piano for us to have a sing-song. A glass of port was given to each person present, and it was noted that voices were more powerful afterwards.

Several of the troops have courageously risked the giddy heights of the famous Blackpool Tower—and returned safely.

In spite of the hot weather we have still paid regular visits to the Palace of Variety and other shows.

I have been asked to mention that several of our family appear to be rather light-headed on a Sabbath morn—the reason (not what you think) being that we now have a visiting tonsorial artist who shortens our hair—if any—at a reduced fee. This we find a very convenient arrangement, as well as being less expensive than hair-cutting by outside barbers.

We always appreciate the happy thought of St. Dunstaners—old and new—who visit Blackpool for day trips, and find time to call here to see how we are. These have recently included Stan Southall of Birmingham, Violet Formstone of Liverpool, and A. Cavanagh of Salford.

Come along, St. Dunstaners—a warm welcome awaits you.

“WALRUS.”

Placements

H. J. Wilson, Southsea, in a tobacconist's business; W. C. Wood, Southsea, as a tobacconist, confectioner and stationer; A. King, with Butlin's Holiday Camp, Filey; Norman Cook, Grays, as a Head Office messenger with the Thames Board Mills, Purfleet; T. Barber, Redcar, as a “prover attendant” with Welfords Cleveland Bakery; S. Minter, as a capstan operator with Messrs. Rothero & Mitchell, Perivale.

West House Notes

Once again the West House lawn is showing signs of fair wear and tear, which goes to prove how popular the garden is during a heat wave. Just recently we have been quite glad of the gaily coloured umbrellas dotted around to give a little shade.

Derby Day was on Whit-Saturday this year, and the tired but happy band even had the energy to consume a fish and chip supper on the way home. Unfortunately, we could not find room for the wives in the coaches this year, but after entertaining them to a strawberry and ice cream tea, they took part in fun and games in the Lounge, organised by Orderly Webster and Miss Holland. The party was a huge success, enjoyed just as much by the men who stayed at home as by the wives. At times it became quite riotous, especially during such events as musical chairs, when everyone really let themselves go. Charlie Firth, from Heswall, suggested that might we not always have a Ladies' Day on Derby Day? Among the prizewinners were: Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Lammiman, Miss Potts, Mrs. McAndrew, and Miss Read. Mrs. Summers had a special award from Matron for being "The Comedienne of Mr. Cochrane's Young Ladies." Miss Pooley and Ada Read, Daddy Read's daughter, were most helpful in the preparation of the tea, etc.

Whit-Sunday was an enjoyable day, and we started off well with a "Stirrup Cup Drive" out into the country, with a stop *en route* for coffee and doughnuts. In the evening the staff, with the help of Mr. Austin Laidlaw, put over a three-act play-reading, "Fresh Fields." It was such a success that even Mark Sheridan woke up to the fact that he was too late to go over to his pet local for his nightcap!

On June 7th a trip by sea to Ryde, Isle of Wight, was planned, and it would have been a grand day had it not been marred by a rough sea. However, Miss Arnold, in charge of the party, said everyone made the most of it, and the crew of the steamer *Britannia* were most co-operative.

Everyone voted it a really tip-top Whit-holiday, as we had endeavoured to cater for all tastes.

We have not had many shows from outside of late, hence the Clairview Players from London, who performed "Saloon Bar," were especially welcome, besides being an excellent company. Many local St. Dunstaners were in the audience, and they and the residents were most appreciative. Mr. Austin, Transport, was responsible for the lighting and stage in general.

In addition to the usual round of Friday night dances, housey-housey, whist and dominoes, Bridge also got under way during the period Frank Rhodes was down. Of course, as we know, Frank and Bridge are inseparable.

On Sunday, the 26th, we had a visit from Hy Hazell, star of the film "Paper Orchid," which was showing at the Imperial Cinema. Leslie Holmes, Mr. Bucket of Columbia Pictures, and the author of the story were also present.

On the 27th, several men and staff went along to the Astoria Cinema to see the preview of "They Live by Night," at the invitation of the Management, who were most hospitable to our boys.

The Brighton Race Meeting on the 27th was well attended.

The Glyndebourne Opera sent us five seats for a musical concert on Saturday, the 30th, and not only was the concert itself delightful but the setting on a lovely summer afternoon was perfect, being situated as it is right in the heart of the country, near Lewes.

Among other activities was a visit to the Dome to a variety show, at the invitation of the Typographical Association.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. Wilshaw, Worthing, May 6th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Boyd, Brighton, July 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bowring, Weymouth, July 5th.

Grandfathers

H. Chadwick, St. Helen's, and J. McAndrew, Blackpool.

★ ★ ★

Twenty blind golfers took part in the United States national blind golf tournament recently.

A Week-end in Paris

A party of Australian ex-Servicemen from St. Dunstan's have recently spent a week-end in Paris as the guests of a group of Australian business and sportsmen in this country.

The party left Ovingdean Training Centre in St. Dunstan's bus on Thursday, June 23rd, and travelled by the night ferry from Dover to Dunkirk and then by road to Lille, where they had breakfast. By lunch-time they had reached Villers Bretonneux, the site of the great Australian War Memorial to the 1914—18 war. There they laid wreaths on the Australian and French Memorials and were entertained to a Civic Lunch by the Mayor.

Paris was reached late that same evening and on Saturday the party were the guests of the French War Blinded Organisation at luncheon. They were all most interested in the Headquarters of this Organisation and the type of training given to these Frenchmen. Later that day they joined other Service Organisations in laying wreaths at the tomb of the Unknown Warrior at the Arc de Triomphe, which was a most impressive and moving ceremony. They were next entertained by the American Legion and ended the day at a Dinner and Dance at a Cafe in the Montmartre (which was more or less Headquarters for meals throughout the visit). At this dance, Secretaries to the Delegates of the U.N.E.S.C.O. Conference came along as partners. They were of all nationalities, Dutch, Norwegian, Italian, Turkish, French—and to any onlooker it must have seemed indeed a "United Nations" affair!

In spite of a somewhat hectic Saturday, the party were all fighting fit for the visit to Longchamps for the Grand Prix. An excellent commentary on the race was given by the Continental *Daily Mail* Racing reporter. After the racing was over, the party went along to the Australian Embassy, where they were received by the Australian Ambassador and revived with very welcome "Melbourne Bitters"—still more popular than the French champagne, at any rate with some of the party!

A tour of places of interest in Paris was arranged for Monday, and after lunch the coach went out to the Palace of Versailles where, after a gruelling tour of the huge building, the party sat down with delight to an English cup of tea!

Throughout the trip the weather had been fantastically hot and ideal for the many photographs which were taken at every opportunity.

Returning to Paris in the evening, the Australians paid a visit to what is recognised to be one of the leading Night Clubs in Europe, the famous "Le Lido" in the Champs Elysees, where they duly inbibed in champagne and dancing, and thoroughly enjoyed the spectacular Cabaret.

Time was getting short and the return to England loomed near! The morning of June 28th was set aside for "personal shopping expeditions" and here, as throughout the tour, the party were extremely fortunate in having for their guide a young Frenchman who took endless trouble to assist them in every way.

It would be difficult to say what impressed the tourists most—perhaps the visit to the Night Club, the tour of the Worth perfume salon, or the descriptions given throughout the trip by one of the Australian ex-Servicemen, in particular of the areas of the great battles of the Somme, about which most of our Australian trainees had heard so much from their fathers and other relatives. His descriptions made the place names so much more vivid and important.

To England they returned on June 29th, having travelled over on the night ferry *Shepperton*. They were all somewhat fatigued and, after a light meal, most of them were content to have a well-earned sleep until later in the day.

It was a trip which will remain in their memories for a long, long time to come—of that their hosts may be certain.

National Egg Laying Trials

Report for the Ninth Month from
May 23rd to June 19th, 1949

Position	Name	Test Score
1	W. E. Young ...	932
2	P. Bagwell ...	921
3	T. Gregory } ...	905
	P. Holmes }	
5	C. McIntosh ...	898
6	A. Chaffin ...	842
7	W. Webb ...	828
8	W. J. Woodcock ...	779
9	W. Alan Smith ...	760
10	E. H. Carpenter ...	707
11	A. Jarvis ...	691
12	T. Clarke ...	508

Average per bird to date, 18.32

Letters To The Editor

"Mr."

DEAR SIR,

May I be permitted to set forth an opposing view to that expressed by Mr. Muggeridge in the last issue.

Whenever I hear a strange feminine voice say "Hulloa, Arnold" my reflexes instantly register "She would never have dared address me like that if I were sighted." To a less pugnacious person, and there are many, this might engender an inferiority complex, a mental state to which all St. Dunstan's training is opposed.

On every occasion my St. Dunstan's badge is worn, and any respect I receive should be considered an honour to my training, so I sincerely trust Sir Ian's directive, which in my opinion is a great act of rehabilitation, will not be smothered by an avalanche of sentimentality.

En passant, this question links up coincidentally with another subject raised by a correspondent in the same issue. Slovenliness in person and dress is inexcusable, but not more than slovenliness in address.

Yours very truly,

LEONARD ARNOLD.

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR EDITOR,

Further to Sir Ian's article in the May REVIEW regarding the title of "Mr," I fully agree with the directive. If I have any criticism to make, it is that this should have been done years ago. We are now partners in one of the greatest organisations for good in the world, and not merely beneficiaries of an organisation directed by an autocratic council supported by funds contributed by the great British public.

Yours sincerely,

Guildford.

F. G. BRAITHWAITE.

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR EDITOR,

I would like to ask Frank Rhodes a question as regards his letter in the REVIEW.

If a man has lost his self-respect, as he suggests some St. Dunstaners have, what is the reason for it? We do not know the reason, therefore we are not in a position to judge, and if, as he states, he knows of cases at Brighton and Blackpool, surely it would be far nicer to get a kind word said to that person by one of the welfare officers.

A kind word always does more good than letters, and a helping hand better still. Probably Mr. Rhodes has always had the care and attention of a wife, as I have myself, but that makes things so much easier. It is very easy to be critical, but far harder to be tactful and helpful. We are not all made with the same natures and ways. Perhaps it is a good thing we are not, so let us always try to find out the reason for these things first.

Yours sincerely,

Tolworth, Surrey.

GEORGE EUSTACE.

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with surprise Mr. Frank A. Rhodes' letter in the June issue of ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW. I strongly advise him to have his friends or observers tested by an oculist under the new National Health Scheme, or perhaps they may be looking through glasses which require cleaning. If I was Mr. Rhodes, I should not be sorry about the Staff—I have always found them very helpful and considerate in all things, and certainly not lacking in tact.

There is a very old proverb, "Never throw stones . . . etc."

Yours sincerely,

P. GARRITY, B.E.M.

Sanderstead, Surrey.

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR EDITOR,

Although Frank Rhodes' letter does not apply to myself, I consider it most insulting, both to the wives whose husbands are out at work and to the Staff. Speaking for myself, I have always found the Staff most attentive and always willing to give assistance in these matters of personal appearance. In what position is Rhodes, being totally blind, able to assess the personal habits of any of his colleagues? I suggest that the bullets were made by some anonymous person for him to fire. This being so, I would remind them of the famous words of the late Bill Tovell—"Bigger men I've seen, but smarter, never!"

Rhodes says he is almost glad he is blind and a St. Dunstaner. For myself, I shall never be glad I am blind, but I am nevertheless proud to be a St. Dunstaner.

Yours sincerely,

JOCK MACFARLANE.

Ilford, Essex.

Young St. Dunstaners

Brenda McIntosh, Dumfries, has received her Scottish Higher Group Leaving Certificate with Highers in Art, English and Geography, and Lowers in History, Botany and Zoology.

Mary Duxbury, Oldham, has been awarded her B.A. degree at Reading University, with honours in French.

The daughter of the late Robert Young, Glasgow, has passed the Final Examination of the Degree of M.B. and Ch.B. at Glasgow University.

David Strachan, of Motherwell, has also passed his Final Medical Examinations successfully. His graduation was on July 2nd, when he was capped and received his degree.

Fred McAndrew, Blackpool, has passed his B.Sc. (Physics) with Honours, at Bristol University.

Eric Maskell, Rochester, has passed his final examination for the Cambridge Tripos with first class honours. He was awarded a prize for his aeronautics paper, and during the past term captained his college cricket team.

Brian Hollins, Slough, secured such high marks for an examination for Slough Grammar School that he has been awarded a place at Wycombe Royal Grammar School until he is eighteen.

Patricia Ettridge, Croydon, has won a scholarship to the Columa High School for Girls.

Kenneth Bowring, Weymouth, is now a C.P.O. in the Fleet Air Arm.

Marriage

Alison McIntosh, Dumfries, on May 6th, to Mr. George W. Walford.

★ ★ ★

Brevities

A little knowledge isn't so dangerous as the man who has it.

* * *

It's called a rubber at bridge because the players' patience is usually stretched.

Talking Book Library

June's Jotting

Once again there is but a singleton to comment on. This fact seems to indicate that in the next few months there will be an avalanche of new releases, since the recording goes steadily on with never a strike or a lock-out to enliven the steady grind. To cut the cackle and come to the boss—the lonely offering is “The Wisdom of Father Brown.”

“The Wisdom of Father Brown,” by G. K. Chesterton, read by Franklin Engelmann, is really a collection of interesting incidents in the career of an R.C. priest-cum-investigator, and as it is well read and recorded it provides several hours' good entertainment without any pretensions to a classic style of expression. It is what I would call a neat number, amusing, intelligent, and interesting throughout.

Perhaps the drought affects record production, but I rather feel it is the export drive ruining the home supplies. However, next month may be an all-time record in book releases. Good listening in peaceful precincts!

NELSON.

Cricketers' Gift to St. Dunstan's

A cricket bat, autographed by the 1949 New Zealand Touring Team, has been presented to St. Dunstan's by the Warwickshire and Test Match cricketers, T. Dollery and Eric E. Hollies. It was raffled by an old friend, Mr. A. E. Walker, of Birmingham, and as a result £30 was sent to Bill Shakespeare for his St. Dunstan's fund.

Princess Elizabeth Meets a St. Dunstaner

When Their Royal Highnesses Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Derby recently for the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new housing estate, our St. Dunstaner, H. Bridgman, was presented to them by the Mayor. The Princess was very charming and interested, and the Duke wanted to know about his training at St. Dunstan's, and congratulated him on his fine appearance.

Ovingdean Notes

With the advent of the summer weather, so our steady flow of visitors to the Training Centre has been increasing. This month we have welcomed several visitors from Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, some of whom have been actively connected with the sending of food parcels to this country, and, in particular, to St. Dunstan's.

Extremely interested in the training work being done by St. Dunstan's was a visitor from Pakistan, Miss R. S. Quari, who is the Secretary to the Pakistan Ministry of Refugees and is on a short visit to England.

Early in the month we had the excitement of the annual trip to Epsom for the Derby. This year not quite as many trainees went as previously. This, we think, was due to the fact that Derby Day fell on Whit-Saturday, and so many had to make a choice between going to Epsom or going home. In most cases it seems it was a win for the home side!

For those who did go along it was a most enjoyable day. We left the Training Centre at about 9.45 a.m. and, joining forces with West House, we proceeded to Epsom. Generous gifts from the Wood-royd Secondary School, Bradford, and the members of the Sussex Motor Yacht Club, Brighton, made it possible for each man to be provided with a packet of cigarettes, and 5s. spending money. In addition, every St. Dunstaner was given a ticket in a "free sweep" and on the return journey we stopped at the Chinese Gardens, Hurst-pierpoint, for a fish and chip supper. To Mrs. Comer and Staff we offered our sincere thanks for a really delightful packed lunch and tea.

On the afternoon of Whit-Monday (which was a holiday from training) a Treasure Hunt to Alfriston was organised. About twenty trainees and escorts had great fun searching for an elusive "ripe strawberry," and an equally unprocurable "dead mouse." The party returned to the Training Centre in time for the evening dance in the Music Hut.

Once again this month we have been entertained by our good friend, Mrs. Meadows, and members of the East Preston Red Cross and British Legion. These outings to Rustington are becoming a regular feature in life at Ovingdean—rather like the dances organised by Mr. Cheesman,

of London, another of which took place at the "Arlington," Brighton, in June. To all these kind friends we say "Many thanks for the way we are so constantly remembered."

A few trainees who had served in the Forces in the Far East went up to London for the Burma Reunion at the Royal Albert Hall on June 17th. They tell us it was a most impressive and enjoyable gathering.

We have also been fortunate enough to receive complimentary tickets from the Typographical Association for a grand Variety Show, held at the Dome recently, and from the Manager of the Imperial Cinema, Brighton, came an invitation for St. Dunstaners and their escorts to attend the world premiere of the film, "Paper Orchid," featuring Hy Hazell and Hugh Williams. About 60 trainees took advantage of this opportunity, and a few went down to West House to meet Miss Hazell when she made a personal appearance there prior to the film. Our thanks, too, must go to the Brighton Territorial and Auxiliary Forces for so kindly sending us tickets for a Concert, given in the Dome by the Royal Artillery Band.

There have been three interesting talks given at the Training Centre during the month by outside lecturers. The first was by Mr. J. Wadsworth, of the Intelligence Dept. of the Midland Bank, on "Development Areas in this Country." On June 15th, Rear Admiral Elliott, O.B.E., came along and the title of his talk was "Yarns of the Life of a Sailor." Finally, on June 27th, we had a visit from Mr. D. Morris, the Director of Programmes of the B.B.C. Midland Programme, who gave us a very interesting description of the programme, "Listeners Answer Back."

The Debating Society had one debate this month, "That International Games Improve International Relationship"—and it was a lively one!

Our final item of interest from Ovingdean this month was the departure of the party of Australian trainees on a week-end trip to Paris. A short account of this trip, which was organised for the Australian fellows by a group of Australian sportsmen and business men in this country, is given elsewhere in this edition of the REVIEW. Sufficient for us to quote the words of one of the trainees who, on his return to Ovingdean, said "It was a champion time."

Always Room For Voluntary Service

"There will always be a place for voluntary philanthropy; even in a highly developed welfare State there will still be anomalies and individual cases for which no rules can provide," said Sir Ian Fraser, President of the British Legion, speaking at Cleethorpes on July 3rd.

Sir Ian went on: "At the height of the totalitarian regime in Germany the stifling of voluntary philanthropy was part of the process of denying freedom to citizens to organise any movement which was not a creature of the all-powerful State. A liberty-loving people like the British would never stand for this, and when their hearts prompted them to succour the maimed, they would do so notwithstanding any discouragement from their rulers.

"There is a dangerous tendency nowadays to discourage and discredit our traditional freedom and we must be on our guard. We know from experience that thousands of ex-Servicemen and women would not have received their pensions at all, or would have received less than they were entitled to, had it not been for the British Legion's action."

Although much had been done, the majority of the seriously disabled were still left with less actual income than the average wage; and the compensation of more than 700,000 partial pensioners was practically the same as thirty years ago.

After the first World War there was a Select Committee to guide Parliament and people as to their duty, and a Select Committee should now be set up aloof from politics, to deal with the problem of the pensioner in the light of the cost of living, modern standards and the social services.

175 Miles in Nine Days

Blind since he was twenty-eight, Coenraad de Boer, a sixty-year-old Dutchman, has just walked from Amsterdam to Brussels.

Accompanied by his dog, M. de Boer covered the 175 miles in nine days.

Births

CIMBRERE.—On June 23rd, to Mrs. Alice Cimbrere, of Blackpool, a son—Peter.

DOY.—On June 20th, to the wife of S. Doy, of Ashford, Kent, triplets—three sons. Thomas Henry, James Frederick, Peter Alexander.

ELLIS.—On June 30th, to the wife of Jim Ellis, of Norbury, a daughter—Linda Mary.

GREASLEY.—On June 23rd, to the wife of H. E. Greasley, of Coventry, a daughter—Julia.

PURCELL.—On July 1st, to the wife of J. B. Purcell, of Urmston, Manchester, a daughter.

ROBINSON.—On July 2nd, to the wife of Leslie Robinson, of Doncaster, a daughter.

TAYLOR.—On April 13th, to the wife of J. Taylor, of Swinton, a daughter—Margaret Elizabeth.

Marriages

DODGSON—CATTEN.—On June 25th, A. Dodgson, of Wimbledon, to Miss Dorothy Catten, of Hove.

MORGAN—PEARSON.—On April 16th, A. Morgan, of York, to Miss Alice Mary Metcalf. (Mrs. Morgan's name was wrongly given in the April REVIEW as "Pearson.")

ROBINSON—HADLEY.—On June 4th, Rex Robinson, of Hastings, to Miss G. E. Hadley, of Brentford.

WEEKS—BAGLEY.—On April 16th, at Brighton, Stanley N. Weeks, of Letchworth, to Miss Cicely Bagley.

Marathon Cricket

Len Hutton reveals in "Cricket Is My Life," recently published, that his historic 364 in two and three-quarter days against the Australians, at the Oval, was not his record in Marathon cricket.

That came much earlier in his career—when he was a member of the Pudsey St. Lawrence Club, which he joined at 11. Matches were in the evenings, play starting after tea and continuing till dark. Once Len went in on Monday and was still batting five nights later—on Friday. After that, he records, his Oval feat "was no trouble at all."

“ In Memory ”

Private John Callaghan, *Royal Munster Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Callaghan, of Cork, who came to St. Dunstan's only in 1941, although he had served from August, 1916, until his discharge in April, 1918.

His health made it impossible for him to undertake serious training, but he did a little rug-work at home. For a long time he had fought against very bad health, and he passed away on May 22nd.

The funeral took place at the Cathedral Church of Cork; St. Dunstaners P. Driscoll, P. Condon, D. Horgan, J. Twomey, and A. Keegan were present, the wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends being placed on the grave by P. Driscoll.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Callaghan in her loss.

Trooper D. S. Harvey Wood, *17th Lancers*

With deep regret we record the death of Harvey Wood, of Rugby, who served with the 17th Lancers from October 23rd, 1906, until October, 1917. He came to us in 1922 and trained as a netter. He went into partnership with his nephew and eventually took the business over, but for some years before his death he was only able, for health reasons, to work at his netting. Throughout his life he had been greatly esteemed by all who had come in contact with him.

His death occurred suddenly in hospital on June 14th, although he had been ill for some time with heart trouble.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral; the body was cremated.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Wood and her son in their bereavement.

Fireman Joseph Aitken, *Mercantile Marine*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Aitken, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Serving from January, 1915, until March, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1925 and became a boot-repairer. After some years, his health forced him to give this up and he carried on with wool rug-making.

His health had been very seriously impaired for a long time. He became very ill indeed in April, and he passed away on May 3rd at his home.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Mrs. Harvey Wood expresses, on behalf of herself and her son, most grateful thanks for the deep sympathy shown to them by so many friends.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

BLAKER.—To A. Blaker, of Lancing, whose wife passed away on June 25th. Mrs. Blaker was the sister of Mrs. Van Niekerk, to whom we also send our sincere sympathy.

OPENSHAW.—To F. Openshaw, of Burnley, whose wife passed away on March 16th.

WAITE.—To W. Waite, of Didsbury, Manchester, at present in training, who lost his wife on June 28th.

DEBNAM.—To J. Debnam, of Great Barrow, in the tragic loss of his son, Neville, on May 29th. Neville was motor-cycling round a blind corner when he came into collision with a car and was thrown against a wall. He was taken to hospital unconscious and operated upon, but he died a few days later. Many St. Dunstaners will remember the tragic death of Mrs. Debnam ten years ago in a fire at their home.

As in past years, there will be no REVIEW for the month of August.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 364—VOLUME XXXIII

SEPTEMBER, 1949

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

HERE is further information about West House which I promised in my Note in the May REVIEW.

The Contractors will start work in early November and it is estimated that it will take some nine months to complete. West House will accordingly be closed from October 22nd next until approximately the second week in August of next year.

St. Dunstaners who permanently reside in the Home will be accommodated partly at Ovingdean and partly at Blackpool, and a number of beds at both of these Homes will be available for men needing short periods of convalescence or holidays. The number of beds will, of course, be limited, but all St. Dunstaners who desire to visit Ovingdean or Blackpool should make application in the ordinary way and the Welfare Department will do their best to fit in as many men as possible, having regard to the individual circumstances.

An increasing number of beds should become available at Ovingdean owing to a falling-off in the number of trainees. In addition, Ovingdean will be kept open during the holiday periods whereas when it was solely a school, it used to close down. Nevertheless, the very fact that we need a reconstructed West House shows that we are short of beds and there is no doubt that a considerable number of St. Dunstaners will have to be asked to forego or shorten their holiday during next spring and summer. This will, I know, cause disappointment, but I hope St. Dunstaners generally will agree with me that the saving of West House from destruction and the new lease of life which we will be giving to this popular house for very many years to come will make the sacrifice worth while.

Many suggestions have been received from St. Dunstaners in regard to the reconstruction, all of which have been carefully considered, and whilst it has not been practicable—as one or two men have suggested—to have a large number of single rooms with individual wash basins, many rooms will be relatively small, and adequate bath and washing accommodation will be provided on all floors.

The reconstructed Home will be as follows:—

BASEMENT: Kitchens, Store Rooms and General Services.

GROUND FLOOR: Six wards accommodating seven, six, four, two, two and one men respectively will be sited where the existing large ward and adjacent rooms are now situated. This wing will have its own Dispensary, bathrooms, etc. The Winter Garden will be demolished so that the rooms will be light and airy. The Dining Room will remain. The Lounge will be remodelled so that there will be two large rooms connected by a sliding door, and the large Summer House will be converted into a Quiet Lounge, the entrance to which will be from the far end of the Lounge. There will be a large cloakroom near the Lounge and a lift, roomy enough to take wheel chairs and communicating with the upper floors, will be centrally situated. The Matron's Room, with an adjoining General Office, and the

V.A.D.s' Dining Room, will remain as at present; the entrance to the building will be improved so as to eliminate draughts; the Hall will be more spacious and free of obstructions and the whole building centrally heated.

FIRST FLOOR: Three wards, for two, four and seven men respectively, with adequate bath, washbasins, etc., in a central position. An orderly will have his quarters on this floor, and in one wing, accommodation will be provided for Matron and five of the senior sisters.

SECOND FLOOR: Six wards, for four, three, four, three, four and seven men respectively. Ample bath, washbasins, etc., will be centrally situated and there will be accommodation for two orderlies.

STAFF QUARTERS: "Westcot" will be re-designed and the V.A.D. staff who are not resident in the main building will sleep there. Similarly the remaining orderly and domestic staff will be housed in one of the outbuildings.

GENERAL: The total accommodation for St. Dunstaners will be sixty and they will all sleep in the main building. The remaining outbuildings will be used for men undertaking hobby work. The garden, too, will be redesigned so as to be more accessible to the men especially those in wheel chairs.

The number of St. Dunstaners who have to be permanently accommodated at St. Dunstan's by reason of ill-health, old age, etc., is increasing and it is intended—when West House has been reconstructed—that they should live there. There will accordingly be only about a dozen beds available for other St. Dunstaners and it is intended to utilise these beds for men requiring extended convalescence in a quiet surround, with adequate medical and nursing facilities.

The Home at Ovingdean will fulfil the function of a holiday centre and a place where St. Dunstaners can get a change or a short period of convalescence, as well as a Training Centre for new St. Dunstaners.

These are, I think, wise decisions which will in the end greatly improve our ability to provide the necessary beds in suitable surroundings for all the varying and complicated needs of our large family. It will be seen that the primary function of West House after reconstruction, namely, to take care of permanents, semi-permanents, the sick and those requiring long periods of convalescence, will mean that the ordinary St. Dunstaner will not normally be able to go there for a short holiday and this will undoubtedly cause grief to many, especially among the older generation who much preferred West House to Ovingdean. It should be remembered, however, that before the war, West House had been closed down altogether and was on the point of being sold, and many First War St. Dunstaners who found Ovingdean strange at first had begun to get used to it and to enjoy it. However, we can only do the best we can and I am at least happy, as I know many St. Dunstaners will be, that West House, which has such a warm corner in our hearts, will go on providing a large number of beds on the old site with all its old amenities and contacts, for those who need it most.

The close-down of West House is over so long a period that it necessarily causes some staff changes, although most of the key staff are going to stay with us and be fitted in for periods at our other Homes. To those who leave us we say 'thank you very much indeed for your splendid service', and particularly to Mrs. Ouseley, who though she has only been with us for four years, had made a very deep impression upon St. Dunstaners and is beloved by all who have enjoyed the hospitality of West House during her Matronship. Some of the men who have been there for holidays during the past few years have told me that they would like to make a presentation to Mrs. Ouseley as a token of their affection and I am glad to say that Mr. Askew will be willing to act as honorary treasurer of a presentation fund so that donations may be sent to him at Headquarters.

Another well-known figure at Church Stretton and Brighton retires from the service of St. Dunstan's having attained the age-limit observed by our organisation. This is Mr. J. E. Rose, Publicity Officer for the past ten years. Publicity is very important for St. Dunstan's, not only because of the great measure of support we receive from the public, but also because the influence of St. Dunstan's name in government circles, amongst employers, with housing authorities and in many other directions, is of the utmost use to individual St. Dunstaners. Mr. Rose, who was a well-known Fleet Street journalist of long standing, carried out his duties with ability and discretion and earned the gratitude of St. Dunstaners. We will all wish him happiness in his retirement.

IAN FRASER.

London Club Notes

The Club opened on September 1st with a very good attendance for the Domino Drive, while on Saturday, 3rd, the Bridge Section played off some important matches. On Monday, 5th, the Institute of Magicians gathered to practise the art of magic, and the next day the whist fans gathered in strength to battle their wits against each other. The Club is now in its stride again for the forthcoming winter session, and below you will find the main events which your committee men have planned for your entertainment and sport. Our good friends, Mr. Willis and Miss Ibbetson, are always in attendance to welcome you and look after your welfare. The Club is gaining in popularity, and there is plenty of room and always a welcome to any fellows who have not yet paid us a visit.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge Notes

On September 3rd, the Bridge Club opened its winter season (in a heat wave) with a grand Bridge Drive when twenty St. Dunstaners entertained a like number of guests, and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser honoured us with their presence.

It was rather a special occasion, being the presentation of the first of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Trophies, won by Mr. Wiltshire's team, comprising himself and Messrs. Douglas, Shakspeare and Miller. The winners in the Bridge Drive were (1st) Messrs. Waller and Shakspeare, (2nd) Messrs. Ward and Henry, (3rd) Miss Byrnes and Mr. Webster.

Mr. Frank Rhodes, captain of the Bridge Club, presided and welcomed Sir Ian. Sir Ian, replying, congratulated all sections of the London Club. He urged members to think of other St. Dunstaners who had not yet enjoyed the amenities of the Club and to make it their personal business to get them in.

In some circumstances, loneliness was worse than blindness and the two together was a terrible burden. Often a man was so shy or apathetic that he would not make the effort to go out, and became introspective and unhappy. If they could induce even one friend to exchange this isolation for the comradeship of the Club, they would have been doing a really good deed.

Sir Ian then presented the prizes.

Outdoor Activities

The walking season will commence with a one-mile race to be held at Highgate Harriers' Stadium on September 24th. The President of the Harriers has very kindly promised medals for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd men home. We are hoping a good many men of both wars will turn out for this event.

Other races this year will be a two-mile race on October 29th, and a three-mile race on December 3rd. Also on December 3rd there will be a three-mile "Novices' Race." I would like to explain that the R.W.A. (who supply the judges) rule that a novice is "confined to competitors who, at the time of competition, have never won a prize in an Open competition."

The walking programme for 1950 is as follows:—

January 28— 5 miles.

March 11— 7 miles.

April 29—10 miles.

The seven-mile race is to be an All-England Championship when silver cups will be awarded to the first S.S. and the first T.B. man home, to be held by the winners for one year. Also, the R.W.A. have agreed that certificates shall be awarded to all who walk 5, 6 or 7 miles within the hour in this race.

Of special interest to the London Club Walkers: It is proposed to award Cups in both sections for the best aggregate performance in all the events mentioned above, and points will be awarded as follows:—

1st in each event—5 points

2nd „ „ „ —4 „

3rd „ „ „ —3 „

4th „ „ „ —2 „

One point will be awarded to the remaining competitors who complete the course. This, as already stated, applies only to the London walkers. In the meantime, walking practice will start again on September 6th, when all newcomers will be welcomed. Until further notice, The Holme, Bedford College, Regent's Park, will be used on Tuesday evenings as dressing rooms for walkers and escorts.

For those interested in swimming, the Seymour Baths, Seymour Place, will be open again to St. Dunstaners on September 5th and every following Monday evening between 7 and 8 p.m.

The Gymnasium at 204A Great Portland Street, is also open to St. Dunstaners on September 8th and each Thursday following up to 6 p.m.

Indoor Activities

Whist: An Aggregate Drive will commence on October 4th and run for six consecutive weeks.

Dancing competitions will be held on January 13th, 1950, and not December 9th, 1949, as previously published. Competitions will include Old-fashioned Waltz and Quick-step for St. Dunstaners only. Slow Waltz will be an open event.

Full details of the above competitions will be sent to all Clubs and Houses.

Any St. Dunstaners wishing to enter the above, please contact their nearest House or Club or me at Headquarters.

Chess. Date not yet determined. Anyone interested, please contact Mr. T. Tuxford at West House, Brighton.

Bonny Baby Photo Competition. I cannot believe that St. Dunstaners, old and young, are responsible for so few Bonny Babies that I can—up to the time of going to press—only receive a dozen entries. The closing date will, therefore, be extended to October 12th, so please let me have photos of your babies and make the competition worth while. All photos will be returned.

Here are the ages once again:—

A. 6 months to 18 months. Boys and girls, weight and exact age.

B. 18 months to 3 years. Boys and girls, weight and exact age.

C. 3 years to 5 years. Boys and girls, weight and exact age.

St. Dunstaners' children and grandchildren only.

Home Notes

Another Get-Together Dance will be held on December 5th at Chelsea Town Hall. Admission will be free and any member wishing to attend should apply to me for ticket (which will also admit escort) at 26 St. Andrew's Avenue, Sudbury. Dancing 7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

The Derby Sweepstake, 1949, did not take place owing to a technical hitch, but I have received several donations to Club funds through this medium and the Committee wish me to thank all donors, especially our friends at West House (£5 12s. 6d.) and Blackpool (£4 13s. 6d.) for their kind generosity.—TINY FLEMING.

London Reunion

The London Reunion Dance will take place this year on **Wednesday, December 7th**, at the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place (close to Marylebone Tube Station), from 7.30 to 11 p.m.

As in previous years, the Dance is primarily for men living in the London area, as it will not be possible to book any accommodation for those who cannot return to their homes the same night.

One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort (it is much regretted that children under 16 cannot be included), and application for tickets should be made to Mr. Mackay at Headquarters *as soon as possible*, and in any case not later than Monday, November 14th.

A Request

We have been asked by Men's Supplies Department to draw the attention of St. Dunstaners to the high cost of wooden packing cases, and the difficulty of replacing them. Many St. Dunstaners fail to return them to Headquarters, despite many requests. This holds up the despatch of articles to fellow St. Dunstaners. Please help the Department to speed up deliveries and at the same time economise.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," Sept., 1919:

"The Tug-of-War pull for the Pearson Challenge Cup between the Holders (House) and Challengers (Bungalow) took place at Olympia this year on July 11th. The teams went straight to their stations on the rope amid tremendous applause. Both teams were out for business and were deadly earnest. The huge audience fully expressed their feelings by giving the men a tremendous reception. The teams were very evenly matched; although the House won both pulls, it was touch and go on more than one occasion for the Bungalow.

The French Cavalrymen who were taking part at Olympia were so delighted with our men's exhibition that when they marched out of the arena, they seized them and in true French style proceeded to kiss them on both cheeks."

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Evan Owen, of Treorchy, has composed an anthem which is to be sung in the local church at Harvest Thanksgiving.

Physiotherapy Conference

Ninety physiotherapists from all over the United Kingdom were in conference at Ovingdean on Saturday, September 10th. Dr. Charles Hill, the "Radio Doctor," who is the secretary of the British Medical Association, was the principal speaker. The Health Service, in one form or another, had come to stay, he said, and our task was to do our best to work it with such changes as seemed to make it more efficient. It had several features which positively discouraged private practice despite any desire of the public for it. In reply to a questioner who said that doctors and specialists who worked the scheme were unable to recommend a patient to go to a private practitioner Dr. Hill said that the general practitioner could, if the patient wished it, recommend a patient to a private practitioner. A hospital specialist, knowing the Physiotherapy Department to be full to overflowing, could inform patients of such private facilities as there were. After all, the patient with lumbago could not be advised to wait ten weeks. The essence of it was that people desiring to be private patients for physiotherapy should be so permitted, provided, of course, they were willing to pay. The British Medical Association, said Dr. Hill, would be glad to give any advice and help that was in their power to St. Dunstan's physiotherapists.

Sir Ian Fraser, who presided, said the National Health Scheme may diminish private practices but, in his judgment, it could not and would not destroy them altogether. So long as there was any freedom of choice left to the individual, there would be some people who would prefer treatment by a doctor or physiotherapist outside the Health Scheme. It was their task to secure all the work they could for their members from this source. They should consider whether to make common cause with doctors who had decided to remain outside the Health Scheme. No one could prevent a man playing golf if he thought it would do his health good, nor could anyone prevent a man going to a St. Dunstan's physiotherapist for massage twice a week if he was too busy or unable to take appropriate exercise and thought this would do him good.

He had led a deputation to see Mr. Bevan. They had asked that private practices

amongst blinded physiotherapists should be encouraged, or at any rate not discouraged. It was clear now that discouragement was to be their portion; they must more and more fend for themselves.

Mr. Bevan had, however, issued a Circular to Hospital Regional Boards urging them to favour the employment of the blind in the National Health Service. While most of them preferred private practice, they thanked the Minister for this.

Mr. L. Howell and Mr. E. R. Ettridge called for further publicity of the right sort and a resolution to implement this was approved.

Mr. S. C. Tarry was re-elected chairman of the Advisory Committee for the fourth year in succession.

Among those present were Mr. Percy L. Way, M.B.E., and Colonel Edwin Baker, O.B.E., M.C., head of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, who said in reply to a toast of "The Visitors," that blinded ex-Servicemen all over the Empire and in the Homeland, as well as scores of thousands of civilian blind people, had benefited by the example of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners.

Appointment

Hearty congratulations to Kenneth McIntyre, now in South Africa, who has secured an appointment as Lecturer in History at the University of Natal. Ken is a double B.A.—of Rhodes University, Grahamstown, and of Cambridge.

Staff

Mr. Doughty, who has been working in close co-operation with Mr. Bennett over the years, has now been transferred to South Audley Street to assist Mr. Rice, and Mr. Bennett will undertake the work formerly done by Mr. Doughty.

Miss Lewis, the Welfare Visitor for Wales and the Border Counties, has left St. Dunstan's to take up another appointment and her place has been taken by Miss J. M. V. Howell. We wish Miss Lewis success in her new job, and welcome Miss Howell to the staff.

London University Success

Our warmest congratulations to Alan Milne, who has secured his B.Sc. in the Faculty of Economics, London University, with first class honours. Only 21 students of some 500 won such honours.

West House Notes

The two months since the last Notes have passed very quickly. The weather has, of course, been superb, which has added to the pleasure of all the out-of-door events.

On July 25th we actually had a midnight bathing party of sixteen, and we have had various other beach picnics, including one for the wives and men who did not go to the Busmen's Outing on July 13th. On that occasion, Albert Oldfield and Bill Brogan were much in evidence, and Matron was much impressed by their efforts. Albert apparently held the North Berwick Annexe 50 yards handicap years ago, but both he and Bill have not done much swimming lately.

The Busmen's Outing was, as usual, a great day, and it is difficult to add more praise. The men on their return were tired but very, very happy.

The Grocers' Outing was the next big item and this, too, was a wonderful afternoon and evening. One hundred men, with wives, escorts and staff, went to Littlehampton for tea, and afterwards Butlin's Amusement Park was very popular.

Mark Sheridan, Paddy Goodison, John Worrell and George Richardson, had a great thrill when they went up to the "Not Forgotten" Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on August 11th.

There were many opportunities for making and losing money, as we had no less than thirteen race meetings during July and August, with an average attendance of forty per day. Goodwood, of course, was the highlight of the racing season for West House, and we attended on the 26th, 27th and 28th in perfect weather.

Now for our very own Race Day, or "Fun and Games Afternoon," as we called it this year, on July 30th. It was a huge success. We had an innovation in the shape of a Baby Show, which Lady Forres, Mrs. Tommy Farr, and Dr. Stirling judged. The bonniest babies were: 1, Philip Miles; 2, Susan Mitchell; 3, Michael Hewitt. During the evening the Southern Serenade Hawaiian Band entertained us.

The weather man let us down on Bank Holiday Monday, and even our Treasure Hunt developed into a quiet drive round the countryside (perhaps not so quiet, eh!) and tea out. The dance in the evening, however, made up for any lack of exuberance in the afternoon.

On July 22nd we had a visit from Le Petit Chantry de Provence, brought by Le Père Bernard Geoffroy. Their beautiful singing was much appreciated.

We had a special Chapel Service on Sunday, July 17th, which was conducted by Canon Speight. The soloists were Bert Tuxbury and Jack Hazell, two new trainees at the "Chippy" shop at Ovingdean.

On this day, also, Clarrie Singleton, of Kingsbury, brought a friend, Mr. Swift, late of the B.B.C., during the evening, and we had some delightful pianoforte selections.

All St. Dunstaners who remember Mrs. Pepper, late Lounge V.A.D., and now living in Newfoundland, will be pleased to hear she has a baby son.

A Fine Record

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. H. Brown, of Reading, must be proud of their family. Their son, the Rev. John Brown, M.A., is Vicar of St. Keverne and Coverack, Cornwall; the Rev. Basil Brown, B.A., is a curate at Camborne Parish Church, Cornwall, after serving four and a half years in Syria in the Intelligence Corps; the Rev. Howard Brown, B.A., has just been ordained and is now curate of Christ Church, Gipsy Hill; he, too, has an excellent war record, having served for five years as a gunner in the Field Artillery at Alamein, Italy and Greece, where he was badly wounded; and Jean Brown, after two and a half years in the W.R.N.S., has just passed her preliminary examination in physiotherapy at King's College Hospital.

St. Dunstaner's Wife Honoured

Mrs. Audrey V. Scott, of Brighton, has been awarded the Medaille de Vermeil by the French Government for her devoted services to France during the war. With the decoration was a Certificate of Thanks from General de Gaulle and letters from General Larminat, President of the Association des Français Libres, and M. Depreux, Minister of the Interior at the time.

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Walter Lethbridge has the only shop on a large housing estate in Oldham and was almost entirely responsible for the formation of the Tenant's Association for the estate. He is an active member of the Committee.

National Insurance: Death Grant

It may be of interest to readers to have the following information with regard to this Grant which is payable from National Insurance Funds.

The Grant is an entirely new benefit as no contributions were paid towards it before July 5th, 1948, and there will, therefore, at first, be many deaths for which no Grant will be paid. For instance no Grant is paid for:—

(1) Any death which occurred before July 5th, 1949.

(2) The death of a man who was aged 65 or over on July 4th, 1948, or the death of a woman aged 60 or over at that date.

(3) The death under the age of 10 of any child born before July 5th, 1948.

A man's contributions can give Death Grant cover to his wife and children as well as to himself, and a woman's Insurance can cover her husband and children as well as herself. There are, however, certain contribution conditions, the main one being that at least 26 contributions of any class have been paid or credited since July 5th, 1948.

The amount of the Grant depends upon the age of the person who has died.

(a) For the death of a person aged 18 or over (excluding men born before July 5th, 1893, and women born before July 5th, 1898) £20 0 0

(b) For the death of a man born between July 5th, 1883 and July 5th, 1893, or a woman born between July 5th, 1888, and July 5th, 1898 £10 0 0

(c) Where a Grant is paid for the death of a person under the age of 18, the amount is:—

Under 3 years £6 0 0

Between 3 and 6 years £10 0 0

Between 6 and 18 years £15 0 0

The Grant is usually payable to the person who accepts responsibility for the funeral expenses, and claims should be made to the local National Insurance office.

Social Service

H. Gunson, of Dewsbury, who is a member of the Dewsbury, Batley and District War Pensions Committee, was presented with a certificate for 25 years' membership of the British Legion. He also served on their Benevolent Committee.

Talking Book Library

A little improvement in the number of releases in July, but there are still some to come to restore the three a month average which was maintained for the early part of the year.

"The Sleeping Sphinx," by J. D. Carr, read Gordon Little, is a pleasantly gripping "who done it," in which murder looks like suicide, and suspicion nearly wrecks the love interest, but one or two twists eventually sort out the web of mystery.

"Valley of Revenge," by Jackson Cole, read Gordon Little, is a Wild West saga of sheriff and outlaw, cattleman and planter, water rights and arson, and takes one back to the Saturday at the films in younger days; it makes very light reading.

"Fall of the House of Heron," by Eden Philpotts, read Frederick Bayley, is a modern product inspired by the atomic bomb and depicts a "too sane" scientist who knows a thing or two about the production and harnessing of atomic energy unknown to anyone else, and on trial for his life, tries to save himself by black-mailing the law. An interesting spot of criminal imagination, but the weakness appears in the policeman who is credited with less knowledge of human character than the lab. dweller. Good reading, but just a wee bit prosy.

The Library shelves groaned under the weight of eight books released in August.

"The Northern Maid," by R. Armstrong, read Franklyn Engelmann, is a sea yarn of good gripping quality, based on the duty of a sea-captain to both his owners and his crew. The yarn covers many and varied degrees of emotion with no lovey-dovey business. Good.

"Hungry Hill," by Daphne du Maurier, read Richard Wessell, is an interesting, well-drawn story of some five or six generations of an Irish family, and how their fortunes rose and dwindled with a copper mine. Of course, there's a bitter family feud thrown in.

"Child of Promise," by Cicely Ashton Jinks, read Richard Wessell, is a misleading title, since it covers the life of Richard Crookback, Duke of Gloucester. Maybe true, may be tripe, nevertheless entertaining.

"The Man who was Thursday," by G. K. Chesterton, read John Marsh, is described by the author as a nightmare and as, seen

in the light of day, such things are amusing, so this extravaganza on the subject of anarchy is good value.

"Byron," by C. E. Vulliamy, read Alvar Lidell, is not as juicy as some might expect, but the dashing poet has a partisan in his author, and was, in any case, a bit of a poseur-cum-exhibitionist. If one likes such reading, it is disappointing.

"Two Quiet Lives," by Lord David Cecil, read Arthur Bush, is another book on poets' lives, Dorothy Osborne and Thomas Gray, which, although beautifully written and read, must fail to appeal to the average reader.

"Priest-Workman in Germany," by Andre Perrin, read Gordon Little, is a heroic story of a Frenchman who volunteered for a labour camp during the recent war to help keep basic Christianity alive in impossible circumstances. Not to be recommended for light reading.

"Our Village," by Nancy Mitford, read Joseph McLeod, has also gone into the Library this month, but I did not manage to read it. Sorry! NELSON.

Cricket and Football Calendars

A suggestion has been made that the National Institute should produce, at the beginning of each season, calendars in braille giving the principal cricket fixtures (county matches, etc.) and football fixtures (League and Cup games and international matches). The Institute is prepared to consider such publications should there be a demand for at least one hundred copies of each calendar. Will all St. Dunstaners, therefore, who would be prepared to purchase copies, write and tell the General Editor, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to all those who are celebrating Silver Weddings:—

Mr. and Mrs. W. McLurg, Port William, November 14th last; Mr. and Mrs. S. Weston, Caldmore, near Walsall, August 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Webster, Forest Hill, August 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Kirkbright, Deal, August 30th; Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Jenkins, Rhondda, August 25th; Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Thomas, Neasden, September 13th; Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Robins, Queen's Park, September 15th.

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H. R. Potter, of Hastings, is another whose garden is a winner again this year.

Personal Appearances

St. Dunstaners everywhere:

It would seem that my letter in the June issue of the REVIEW has not been favourably received by all. This, of course, was to be expected. I stoutly refute the charge of insulting any wife. I may have called some of them funny names, including my own wife, but insult them—never.

As to the "tact" of the staff, so far as I am aware this has never been challenged, and is beyond all shadow of doubt.

As to the "reasons" why we may lapse into slack habits, I agree there are many, but there are also many reasons why we should "pull our socks up," some of which I mentioned previously.

I thank all those who have taken the trouble to take notice of my letter—pros and cons—and especially the overwhelming majority who have applauded my action in writing it.

FRANK A. RHODES.

St. Dunstaner Designs Newest Pen

From the "Daily Graphic," July 21st:

A blind ex-Service man, Mr. Richard Dufton, aged 37, of Reading, evolved the new Biroette pen, which is being launched in Britain after selling successfully in Australia, South Africa, Egypt and Eire.

Mr. Dufton, chief designer for the Miles Martin Pen Co., was blinded while in the Navy.

His work is uncanny in its accuracy. He used braille-like drawing board instruments, accurate to a thousandth of a millimetre. An official of the company said yesterday: "The new pen is the latest thing in streamlining at a reasonable price."

Blackpool Notes

September, 1949, and the Blackpool Home is closed once more for its annual "spring-cleaning." Lili Marlene, Daisy, Annie Laurie, Bonnie Mary, and Nellie Dean, and all our other "girl friends" accompanied us on our many outings in July and August, including Haydock Park Races on August 25th.

Some of the troops have been up the famous Tower, others round it in an aeroplane. All have heard of the famous Blackpool illuminations, and will be interested to know that this is the first year since we arrived in 1940 that they have been showing.

"TOM SCRUFF."

The Last Reunions

July 7th and 9th were set aside for the Liverpool meeting which was held at Reece's Restaurant. Mr. T. F. Lister, C.B.E., a member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion, and Mr. A. R. Cannell, member of the Cheshire Executive of the Legion, were present on the first day, and on the second we were delighted to welcome among the guests Mrs. Dunphy and Major and Mrs. D. L. Charters. Major Charters is well known to men in the Liverpool area and was the ophthalmic surgeon who dealt with many of our men in the early stages of their blindness in the prison camp in Germany.

Colonel Eric Ball, senior member of St. Dunstan's Council, was in the chair at Manchester on July 11th and Squadron Leader Burley, R.A.F., officer for the Western Region, was one of the guests.

The Sheffield meeting was on July 13th, and Colonel Ball again presided. Mr. H. Benson, President of the Sheffield and District Branch, was among the British Legion guests attending.

The Mayor, Councillor G. S. Field, O.B.E., and the Mayoress, were with Colonel Ball to welcome guests at Reading; the British Legion was represented by Mr. Chivers.

On August 4th, Colonel Ball again presided at the Birmingham meeting. Visitors here were Col. Lawrence, Works Manager of Messrs. Chamberlain and Bookham, Ltd., and Mr. W. Brazener, Chairman of the Birmingham County Council, British Legion.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present at Leeds on August 20th and accompanying them was Mr. Donald Hopewell, a member of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's. Major Wood, Hon. Secretary, Northern Area, British Legion, was also a guest.

At Newcastle, Captain W. Appleby, C.B.E., who is a member of St. Dunstan's Executive Council as well as a prominent member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion, was in the chair. Another British Legion visitor here was Miss Laura Ainsworth, Chairwoman of the County of Northumberland, and Chairwoman of the Northern Area.

Edinburgh Meeting

PRESENTATION TO MISS WOOD

"Time, gentlemen, please," said Miss Wood, concluding her speech of thanks for the radio and watch which had been

presented to her by Mr. E. Brockie, of Torphins, on behalf of the men of her area, the bouquet, by Mrs. Howes of Montrose, from their wives, and the clock by Sir Ian Fraser on behalf of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's.

Great good humour and warm affection for Miss Wood was shown by all present at the Scottish reunion. Miss Gordon, the new Welfare Visitor, was in charge but it was Miss Wood's day, and all remembered her thirty years' work for St. Dunstan's.

Sir Ian emphasised the unity of purpose between the Scottish National Institution for the War-blinded and between the British Legion north and south of the Border. Their pensions campaign would continue, he said.

Professor James Drever, F.R.S.E., Convenor of the Executive Committee of the Scottish National Institution, and the Rev. Sempill, a prominent member of the British Legion and a member of the Committee of the Scottish National Institution, were also present.

Placements

B. W. R. Glover, as a shopkeeper (tobacconist) at Southsea; E. Hordyneck as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. James Barwell, Birmingham; F. Griffie, Bristol, as a tobacconist, confectioner, etc.; J. H. Griffiths, on assembly work, with Messrs. E. Shipton & Co., Ltd., Northwood Hills; H. R. Langton, Bottesford, Notts., as a capstan operator with the Raleigh Cycle Company; G. Miller, with Messrs. C. and J. Hampton, Ltd., Sheffield, on fettling; H. J. Wilson, as a tobacconist, at Brockley; H. Cope, Stoke-on-Trent, as a mobile canteen proprietor in partnership with his brother-in-law; A. Tillotson, Cleveleys, and H. Dakin, Blackpool, on conveyor belt work with Messrs. Waller & Hartley's, manufacturing confectioners; H. C. Adams, as an assembler with Messrs. Morris Motors, Cowley, Oxford; R. Osborne, temporarily in charge of the cigarette and tobacco kiosk, Ovingdean, pending a shop settlement.

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George Taylor, of Edmonton, has passed with honours the examination for the Certificate of Industrial and Social Psychology and now becomes a Member of the Institute of Industrial Psychology. He gained 90 per cent. marks in a class of sixty.

Ovingdean Notes

By the time this appears in print, more than two months will have passed since our last news from Ovingdean.

Let us think back, for a moment, to July when, undoubtedly, the event of the month was the Sports Day. The weather was much, much kinder to us this year, and we were able to welcome our many guests in hot brilliant sunshine. We were delighted to have with us Colonel Ball, who very kindly came down to present the prizes. It was nice, too, to see so many local St. Dunstaners and their families; with tea-time music supplied by the Training Centre Band a most successful afternoon was enjoyed.

We have had, as usual, an interesting selection of talks from visiting lecturers. On July 13th, Mr. Bunn, the Brighton Borough Treasurer, talked about local finances, and later the same month Colonel Davys returned to Ovingdean and told us something of "Atomic Energy as applied to Medicine," which was most interesting. The new generation of St. Dunstaners were particularly interested in a talk given by Matron Pain on July 31st, when she gave them a vivid picture of St. Dunstan's from its early days. A somewhat unusual occupation was described by Mr. Lovell, when he talked to us on August 9th, and related some of his experiences as a deep sea diver. His listeners' attention never wavered.

Amongst our numerous visitors recently we entertained a party of Native Chiefs from Kenya. Their particular interest seemed to be the Telephony School, where they watched the operation of the switchboards with rapt attention.

Another group of visitors came to us from an International Students' party, staying for a short time at Brighton.

Our opportunities for outside entertainments have been many.

During the August Bank Holiday weekend a bathing party and an afternoon picnic were arranged for those trainees who did not go home for the holiday.

By this time we were beginning to think of the end of term and our summer holiday, but a week before we broke up Mrs. Mellor, of Hove, extended an invitation to St. Dunstaners from the Training Centre and West House. Together with a small number of escorts, a very large party from both houses was entertained to tea at the

Gwydyr Mansions Restaurant prior to being taken to the Brighton Hippodrome. During tea-time we met Sam Costa and Jon Pertwee (both of whom were appearing in the Hippodrome show).

Our End of Term Dance was held in the Lounge on Monday, August 15th, and was a great success. A short interlude in the dance was provided by an excellent cabaret from Messrs. T. Baker, H. Duxbury and J. Halsall, J. Ormond and P. Appleby, and included selections from the band.

Two days later the Training Centre was empty, save for a few staff, those St. Dunstaners staying in Ward 1, and one or two of our Australian trainees who were waiting a few days before setting off on their holiday.

Test Result

Senior Braille Reading Test:—W. F. Cork, A. Rees.

From Miss Hensley

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS,

I am sending this letter to you through the REVIEW to thank you so much for my lovely present, which is going to take the form of an armchair and a coffee table. Your gift has given me the very greatest pleasure.

I look back on my time as Visitor as a time of such great friendship and understanding and a memory I shall always treasure. I look forward to seeing you all again at our future Reunions.

Yours sincerely, J. DE M. HENSLEY.
5 Crawford Mansions, W.1.

Retirement

From the "Beacon," July 15th:—

"On June 30th, a luncheon was given at Worcester by the Governors of Worcester College for the Blind to Mr. P. Sumner, on the occasion of his retirement from the teaching staff of Worcester College after 28 years' service. Mr. T. H. Taylor was in the chair and referred to Mr. Sumner's valuable work at the College and wished him well in his retirement."

★ ★ ★

T. Batt, of Oakhill, near Bath, won two firsts, two seconds, and two thirds for his garden produce at the local British Legion Show, and the Silver Rose Bowl again at the Bristol Show for blind gardeners, as well as six other prizes.

Miss Macdiarmid

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Miss M. M. Macdiarmid, who came to us in March, 1944, to take over the duties of Telephony Superintendent. "Mac" soon made her own particular place at St. Dunstan's, and became a good friend to our telephonists, particularly the new war men, many of whom she placed in their first jobs. The funeral took place on August 17th. Our telephonists were represented by Messrs. P. Ashton, W. Miller and E. Russell, and Mr. G. Zipfel represented St. Dunstan's.

Mr. D. Macdiarmid, Ruby and Denis desire to express their sincere thanks for the kind sympathy expressed to them in their recent sad bereavement.

Doy of the Bounty

or lines written on the birth of triplets to our friend, Sid Doy

*"I am the great I am, I am,
The pride of old Kent County.
I heed the population plan
And earned King George's bounty.*

*I am the great I am, I am
The great I am, sez he.
I sought a pal for daughter Ann,
And the stork has brought me three.*

*When I was young and in the Guards
The R.S.M. said, "Look here, pards,
You don't form fours now, if you please,
So I've taken his word and formed threes.*

*And now my head is filled with woes,
I like my game of dominoes.
My favourite game is threes and fives,
What am I saying? Ho! snakes alive!*

*There's triplets, quins and even quads,
It conjures up a vision.
I'll have my section or my squad
Or a blooming first division."*

*God bless you and your little boys
May no wars come to scare 'em.
We wish you all the earthly joys,
—Gen. and Freddie Wareham. "GEN."*

Grandfathers

A. Spierling, Bridgend (his daughter had a son on December 11th and his son had a son on July 22nd); S. L. Ball, Neath; A. J. Coleman, Northampton; A. Rees, Stansted; J. Thompson, Parkstone.

F. Warcham has won a Silver Medal for one of his round shopping baskets in the

Blind Section, Dorset Arts and Crafts Association.

Births

BROOMFIELD.—On July 13th, to Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Broomfield, of Weybridge, a daughter—Florence.

FITZPATRICK.—On August 15th, to Mr. and Mrs. B. Fitzpatrick, of Barrow-in-Furness, a daughter.

FRANKLIN.—On July 12th, to Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Franklin, of Edmonton, a son—Colin Leslie.

FRENCH.—On August 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. R. V. G. French, of London, a daughter—Alexandra Magdalen.

HAWES.—On August 25th, to Mr. and Mrs. F. Hawes, of Swindon, a son—Beverley Cedric Tarrant Miller.

HOMEWOOD.—On July 26th, to Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Homewood, of Lee, a daughter Daisy Margaret.

LANGLEY.—On July 30th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Langley, of Brighton a son—Gordon.

MCGOOHAN.—On July 30th, to Mr. and Mrs. D. McGoohan, of Watford, a daughter—Sheila Mary.

MORGAN.—On August 21st, to Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Morgan, of Bristol, a daughter—Brenda Margaret.

OSBORNE.—On June 30th, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Osborne, of Saltdean, a son—Graham Kevin.

SALTERS.—On August 17th, to Mr. and Mrs. G. Salters, of Everton, a daughter.

SPENCE.—On August 23rd, to Captain and Mrs. E. Stewart G. Spence, of Hillingdon, a son—James.

Marriages

CRUSE—BATHAN.—On August 19th, J. Cruse, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Miss Janet Bathan.

DAVIES—THOMPSON.—On August 27th, L. Davies, of London, S.E.23, to Miss Margaret Joan Thompson.

GRIFFITHS—LEE.—On July 30th, J. H. Griffiths, of Northwood, to Mrs. Lee, of East Moulsecoomb.

PAWSON.—On August 29th, F. Pawson, of South Norwood.

★ ★ ★

"Teddy" Mills, of Walsall, was a prize-winner in Walsall municipal gardens competition; with a picture in the local paper.

Reports of Camps at Shawbury and Lee-on-Solent will appear next month.

“ In Memory ”

Private William A. Burns, *Manchester Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of W. A. Burns, of Salford, an old soldier who served with his regiment from 1910 until April, 1916.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1916 after losing his sight at Maricourt the previous year. He trained in boot repairing, but his health was never good and he was able to do very little work at home. During the last few years he was a chronic sufferer from asthma. At his request, he went to Ovingdean, but he died there ten days later.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers at the funeral. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Corporal Albert Edward Moore, *Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. E. Moore, of Camberwell.

Wounded at Neuve Eglise in 1915, he came to us the same year and was trained in mat-making.

Our sympathy is extended to his son, and to his nieces, with whom he lived.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral.

Air Mechanic William H. Stanley, *Royal Air Force*

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Stanley, of Stony Stratford.

He was discharged from the Service in 1919, but it was not until 1938 that he came to us, his sight having failed gradually. He trained as a netter, but for the past five years he had been bed-ridden.

At his request, there were no flowers, but a poppy wreath was sent from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

He was a prominent member of the Methodist Church and the esteem in which he was held was testified by the many friends present at the funeral service.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Private Harold Eric Dixon, *Manchester Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of H. E. Dixon, of Manchester, a St. Dunstaner of the recent war. He was thirty years of age.

He enlisted in October, 1939, and was discharged from the Army in 1944, but he did not come under our care until November, 1947. His state of health then prevented him undertaking any kind of training—he was, in fact, quite helpless and only able to get about by means of an invalid chair, but he endured his great suffering most courageously.

Shortly before his death, it was arranged that he should go to Blackpool for a change of surroundings and the opportunity of meeting other St. Dunstaners, but he passed away at the Home on June 24th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the cremation ceremony, which took place at Manchester.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife, who nursed him devotedly.

Private Richard Higson, *2nd Lancashire Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. Higson, of Wigan, who served with his regiment from January, 1915, until December of the following year. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1916 after he had lost his sight at the Battle of the Somme, and he trained as a basket-maker and netter; for years, however, he had done little work owing to ill-health. He lost his wife in August, 1945, which was a sad blow to him and one from which he never really recovered.

He passed away in hospital on July 29th. A wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral. He leaves two sons, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

Sergeant George Campbell Shields, *2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders*

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of that popular St. Dunstaner, “Sammy” Shields, of Leigh-on-Sea.

Wounded in France in September, 1915, he came to St. Dunstan's in the December of that year and soon established himself as one of our personalities. His prowess as an oarsman will be particularly remembered. He trained as a netter. He had been seriously ill for many months latterly at West House and at Ovingdean, and he passed away on September 1st.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Shields and her four children.

Mrs. P. Shields and family would like to thank Matron Ouseley, sisters, nurses, orderlies and other St. Dunstaners and their wives who were so kind to her husband, and to her, during her husband's illness at West House and Ovingdean.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

COLLINS.—To W. Collins, of Cowes, whose wife passed away on September 6th.

COTTRELL.—To P. Cottrell, of Brighton, whose wife passed away on July 26th, after a long illness.

GRANSBY.—To H. G. Gransby, of Perivale, lately of Sudbury, in the double loss of his daughter, Gladys, on July 14th, and and of his mother on August 8th.

WALKER.—To Mr. and Mrs. C. Walker, of Tottenham, whose eldest daughter died on July 24th.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

THERE is on another page a report of a Reunion of St. Dunstaners who are deaf as well as blind. I will not make comparisons between one disability and another for this would be both invidious and uncertain, suffice it to say that St. Dunstaners as a whole wish the best of good luck to those among their number who suffer a double disability, whether it be the deprivation of hearing or limbs or health; blindness itself is enough of a handicap. The reason for a special Reunion for the deaf-blind is obvious enough, namely, that they cannot take a full part in the ordinary social functions which most others can enjoy.

Mr. Thomas, or Wally, as his friends call him, thanked all those who have learned the deaf-blind hand language which enables staff or St. Dunstaners to talk freely with their deaf fellows. I echo these thanks and would encourage others to try. Several members of the staff can teach it. So can the deaf-blind themselves.

It is my custom when I go to Ovingdean, to talk to new St. Dunstaners and answer questions when I can. On my last visit some questions were asked which I think may be of general interest, and I will give the answers I gave on the spur of the moment so that other St. Dunstaners can criticise them.

Do blind people have blind babies?—I was asked. Once in a blue moon, I said, any person may have a child which is unusual or defective in some way. But people who are born normal themselves are no more likely to have abnormal children than dogs whose tails have been cut off when they are young are likely to have puppies born without tails. There are, of course, some conditions, such as cleft palate and colour-blindness, to mention but two which are hereditary, so is left-handedness. I am left-handed, so is my daughter and one of my grandchildren. This can hardly be coincidence.

But characteristics acquired by accidents like war blindness are not transmissible. It should be said, however, that among the blind are some whose blindness, or tendency to blindness, is hereditary and if any blind person is in doubt about this matter he should privately see his doctor and ask advice which would, of course, be confidentially given and regarded. Let me say finally on this subject that there have been about 5,000 St. Dunstaners from the two wars and there must be well over 10,000 children and I only know of one born blind.

Another question—do you recommend carrying a stick or a white stick? Indoors no stick. Outdoors an ordinary stick or a white stick always. A stick gives you the power of feeling a short distance ahead to see the edge of a pavement or the presence of a pillar-box or opening or what not. It is objected by some that a stick makes you noticeable, but I say that feeling about with your hands makes you more noticeable and is awkward and difficult. As to whether it should be a white stick I leave this to the individual to choose for himself and would not advise. Some feel it helps them that people should know they

are blind and that this aids their progress and is easier also for the sighted. Personally I do not favour a white stick, but then I do not walk alone to the office every day.

Sometimes, however, I go for a walk alone on a Sunday when my wife is busy or simply because I want to. The other day I was walking alone in Regents Park and came to a familiar corner, or I thought it was, but I was wrong—I had been listening to something that was going on around me and it was really the entrance to Bedford College so I went straight into a wheel-barrow full of muck. Fortunately one is ready for anything and I did not fall over. I should have found it difficult to have extricated myself if I had not had my stick to feel around with and a motor-cyclist who had seen me in peril told me what had happened. Some would feel, especially those newly blinded, that this experience was so humiliating that they would rather not risk it and would stay at home. It is not fear of getting hurt, but fear of looking foolish. I say, conquer this feeling. Get out as much as you can, never mind what they say. It is better to get that beer when your wife is putting the children to bed than to be talked out of it or deprived of it by sensitiveness. You will find that the longer blindness is with you the less you care what they say and the more independent you can and will be.

When walking and indeed at all times, keep your head up both spiritually and actually. You will feel better and you will not crack your head so easily. But don't keep it up unnaturally. Some blind people do this because it is easier to hear with your head up a bit and your mouth open. But it looks barmy, so avoid it.

I have written this on the new St. Dunstan's braille writer. What a boon to be able to read what you have written as you go along, especially when you have been interrupted and want to know where you had got to. The St. Dunstan's braille writer writes upward like every modern typewriter.

IAN FRASER.

News of St. Dunstaners

G. Gadsby, of Leeds, has been granted permission by H.R.H. the Princess Royal to fish in the waters in the grounds of Harewood House.

★ ★ ★

Jock Macfarlane, of Ilford, has been appointed Chairman of his Departmental Branch of the Civil Service Union, and is also a representative on the staff side of the Whitley Council and National Council.

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. A. Spurgeon, of Halstead, won three first prizes and three second prizes at Halstead Horticultural Show.

★ ★ ★

Esmond Knight has made a happy return visit to Church Stretton—this time for location scenes in the film, "Gone to Earth," in which he is taking part. Moreover, he stayed at the Longmynd.

★ ★ ★

Gerry Brereton received a terrific reception from the audience when he sang in Hughie Green's radio feature, "Opportunity Knocks," on September 15th.

★ ★ ★

D. N. MacReady, of Birmingham, will also be heard over the air on October 26th. He will be in the Wilfred Pickles programme, "Have a Go."

Tradition

*Did you hear Drake's drum beat
When British tars withstood the heat
In confined space, near dead for sleep,
Kept safe the honour of his fleet?*

*Did you see Lord Nelson's eye
Proudly gleam as they passed by,
To teach the world tradition's tie,
When translated into "Do or die."*

*Was Beatty's cap still more askew,
When Kerans and his gallant crew
Smashed Yangtze's boom and raced clean through
To serve Wan Hue a British brew?*

*Oh what a story to relate,
Writ in darkness and lonely state,
Of unconquered men who challenged fate,
And staked their claim among the great.*

*How difficult in words to tell,
This deathless tale of seamen's skill,
For words are but shadows small
When deeds like this they would recall.*

*So heroes who on Olympus dwell,
Sound the clarion note to tell
Of Amethyst's brave dash through Hell,
The crowns reserve for Jack and Bill.*

T. ROGERS.

London Club Notes

It has been suggested that the Club should hold a Whist Drive on Saturday evenings, say, once a month, for those who are unable to get along on Tuesdays. If there is a sufficient demand, we will do so. Drop me a postcard at the Club and let me know your views. P. ASHTON.

Bridge Notes

During the week, September 10th to 17th, eleven St. Dunstaners availed themselves of the great hospitality of our friends at Harrogate, when Mr. John Morrison and Mr. Frank Noakes did all in their power to ensure that we had a good time, and we did. There was plenty of bridge to satisfy even the most enthusiastic, and with our stalwart "Aubrey" as twelfth man, we were able to play three teams of four in each fixture. Messrs. Gover, Nuyens, Winter and Thompson upheld the prestige of the Club by getting into second place in the main match at the "Stray Bridge Club." This was our ninth visit to Harrogate, and for those interested there will be a tenth visit in 1950.

Note.—Bridge A.G.M. on Saturday, December 10th, and the Bridge Christmas Party on Saturday, December 17th.

FRANK A. RHODES.

Indoor Activities

The week ending September 25th saw the conclusion of several Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize competitions at Ovingdean.

Complications were soon manifest but these were very quickly ironed out by Mr. Jack Jarrold, Ovingdean's very able and competent Sports Instructor, and thenceforward things went very smoothly. All games were keenly contested and excitement ran high, especially in the darts T.B. and S.S. individual finals. Congratulations to the following Cup winners and runners-up:

Crib :

Winner, F. C. Fleetwood, West House.

Runner-up, J. W. Gill, Manchester.

Dominoes :

Winner, W. Shayler, Liverpool.

Runner-up, J. Dennick, Manchester.

Darts :

Teams :

Winner, London.

Runner-up, Ovingdean.

Individuals :

Winner (T.B.), G. Blakeley, Ovingdean.

Runner-up, J. Edwards, London.

Winner (S.S.), S. Russell, Manchester.

Runner-up, E. Irons, Ovingdean.

On behalf of all competitors, I would like to thank Matron Pain and Commandant Fawcett and all those who so kindly helped to make the week-end such a success.

Home Notes :

A reminder! Don't forget the Dance on December 5th. Admission free. One man, one escort, at the Chelsea Town Hall.

Another chance to practise for the forthcoming Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize dance competitions on January 13th.

TINY FLEMING.

Outdoor Sports :

One Mile Walk, September 24th

Highgate Harriers, at Parliament Hill Track

RESULTS

	H'cp. Time	All.	Actual Time	Pos.	Pts.
A. G. Bradley	7.22	2.10	9.32	5	5
D. Faulkner ...	7.42	2.00	9.42	6	—
T. Gaygan ...	7.54	0.50	8.44	2	4
E. Cookson ...	8.23	2.40	11.03	9	3
W. Miller ...	8.25	0.30	8.55	3	2
H. McSteel ...	8.31	1.10	9.41	4	1
A. Brown ...	8.33	Sc.	8.33	1	1
J. Lynch ...	8.38	2.15	10.53	8	1
W. T. Scott ...	8.58	1.15	10.13	7	1
B. F. Campbell	—	—	—	—	—
M. Burns ...	—	—	—	—	—

Prizewinners

Handicap—A. G. Bradley. W. Faulkner.
T. Gaygan.

Fastest Time—A. Brown. T. Gaygan.
W. Miller.

Our thanks are due to the Highgate Harriers, and especially to Mr. McSweeney, for this Invitation Race; also to the donors of prizes, and to Mr. W. H. Harris, the Hon. Handicapper.

Make a note of these dates:

Oct. 29th—Two mile race.

Dec. 3rd—Three mile race, to be held in conjunction with a three mile Novices' Race.

Those wishing to take part should send in their names to Cpl. Major Jack Dawkins, at the Club.

TOMMY GAYGAN.

Placements

V. Wake, of Barrow-in-Furness, on a capstan lathe with Messrs. Vickers Armstrong; A. Needham, as a tobacconist at Holloway Road, N.19, a shop until recently held by H. S. Holden, who has now moved to Hindley, Lancashire.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR SIR,

There may be a few of our fellows who might be in a position to help solve the problems of the Deaf-Blind in London. It would mean paying them a visit now and again, or writing in Braille. A few lessons and a little practice soon makes it possible to communicate with them. If anyone is interested I would be able to put them in touch with a deaf-blind person in their locality.

Yours sincerely,

W. T. SCOTT.

46 Leigham Avenue, S.W.16.

To the Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR SIR,

I have been reading on the talking book "The Riddle of the World," a series of lectures in theology by Dr. Cairns. I found it pretty heavy going in parts, but Anthony MacDonald, the reader, provided a spot of light relief at the end of the first half of the second record. After the usual "This book will be continued on the other side of the record," I let it run on for a few seconds whilst attending to the machine, and, to my surprise, the voice came on again presumably talking to an assistant—"Slam on before you mark it, eh luv?"

Yours truly,

FRED RIPLEY.

Leatherhead.

(Enquiry at the Talking Book studio revealed that the procedure is for Mr. Pinder to mark up the details relating to one recording before going on with the next. The meaning, therefore, of this affectionate injunction may be interpreted as "I am in a hurry. Let's get on with the next recording before you fiddle about with your marking up."—ED.)

The Editor, "St. Dunstan's Review."

DEAR SIR,

Since I made an offer of Ange Marie creams to St. Dunstaners' wives and daughters, I have had many requests asking if it was possible to obtain Vanishing and Cleansing Creams only, and I am pleased to say that this can be done. The two creams can be sent, post free, on receipt of postal order for eight shillings. When ordering, will friends state whether they wish the Vanishing cream

white or tinted. Special boxes have been made for Christmas orders.

Will friends please note that the name of my company is now Ange Marie, Ltd., but of the same address.

Yours sincerely,

A. G. FISHER.

6 Whitehill Gardens,
Glasgow.

Venetian Blind!

The gondolier smiled broadly and spat. "That is where the bad Lord Byron lived." I yawned and sank further into the dilapidated upholstery of the ancient gondola. Venice bored me from the start with its hoards of foreign tourists, spivs in the guise of photographers and postcard vendors, they seemed so out of place in this romantic age-old city.

Where was this romance and glamour to-day? At the Palace of the Doges maybe—St. Mark's Cathedral perhaps, but not for all the mosaic work in Venice could I find it. When the cafe orchestras in St. Mark's Square struck up, I thought I was being offered a portion, but I was wrong. Boogy did not fit in, even to a jive fiend like myself, and the rhythm was subsequently lost in the milling cosmopolitan crowds.

The life-blood of Venice is its tourist trade, and no doubt this is well catered for. The shops are magnificent, the wares breath-taking, with prices to match, at least to us poor British. We contented ourselves with a few small trinkets, whilst the Americans went for the big stuff—"Whatever the price, I'll buy it."

The gondolier suddenly announced in a vino cracked voice "Bridge of Sighs." Absentmindedly I let trail my fingers in the dirty waters below—and I sighed.

J. A. LEE.

(Author's note: The foregoing was my impression of Venice, recently visited by my wife and myself during a tour of North Italy. The whole of the trip was very enjoyable; everywhere visited came up to our expectations with this one exception. Italy has made an amazing recovery since the war. Only three years ago, where people once begged for bread and sold their souls for cigarettes, we now found a certain prosperity. Reports on how it has been achieved vary, but hard work on the part of the Italian people must have played a large part.—J.A.L.).

The Muffled Drums' Reunion

This year found us all at Ovingdean where C. Jay, a new deaf St. Dunstaner, joined us. On September 30th we sat down to a dinner with Matron, Commandant and other senior members of the staff, and both Matron and Commandant told us how pleased they were to welcome us there. Saturday morning found us strolling along the top of the cliffs with our V.A.D. escorts and in the afternoon we went into Brighton, from where we boarded a small yacht and sailed along the coast to Newhaven and back. We were joined in the evening by members of the Sussex Deaf Association and a jolly match of fives and threes dominoes was played which we won; this was followed by supper and a few words from Matron and the Rev. Williams, who had brought along the sighted deaf.

On Sunday afternoon we went by coach to Alfriston for tea. We found two donkeys in a field and Joe Jordan and Williams put their arms round the donkeys' necks and had a chat with them. Snapshots were taken while many two-legged donkeys stood by busting with laughter. So would have you!

On Monday, Mr. Mackay, our Welfare Superintendent, had an individual chat with each man and in the evening we went to the dance, which was a topper! We visited Northgate House on Tuesday morning, where we found a party of happy children of St. Dunstaners. The house is a splendid one, delightfully situated with a fine view of the glorious South Downs and sea. It has lovely grounds for the children to play in during fine weather, a large conservatory and plenty of toys and games inside.

After lunch we met Sir Ian and Lady Fraser. Now it may be thought that Sir Ian enters a room, we deaf are told, all let fly at him at once with many and varied questions, and the whole affair develops into confusion. Nothing of the kind. Sir Ian sits with Lady Fraser, Matron and Commandant and a stenographer. Each man has an interpreter and after Sir Ian has expressed his pleasure at meeting us again, he calls upon us one at a time in alphabetical order to ask any questions or make suggestions. These are translated by the interpreters, who are V.A.D.s, and Sir Ian replies slowly and with pauses, so his replies can be also translated. W. Ruddock

brought along the N.I.D. badge, which is a dark red one with gold letters, "DEAF" upon it, and suggested it might be worn with our St. Dunstan's badge. The idea was supported and Sir Ian who was impressed, will investigate a suitable design for those who would like one.

Questions over, we took tea with Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, after which they took their leave.

On Wednesday we went to Barcombe Mills, where some of us had an unusual experience, for in the past the V.A.D. sat in the stern of a boat steering on a lake or river, while we took the sculls, but on this occasion we lounged in the punt while the V.A.D. took the paddle! Our trip along the river over, we took tea in the old mill. In the evening we all sat down to a farewell dinner at which the different departments of Ovingdean were represented. The meal over, Commandant made a delightful little speech which was replied to by different "Muffled Drums" during which great tribute was made to Matron Pain, her V.A.D.s and orderlies. It was also mentioned by Jordan that if there had been any mistakes it was on our part. Jordan, by the way, had a most embarrassing experience. He had his left hand on a small glass, his right on a large glass, and a huge cigar between his lips and a charming V.A.D. on either side of him, and didn't know which to use his hand and lips for first!

Like last year, all too soon we had to pack our bags and twiddle our fingers for the last time this year and say "So long." It might be interesting to know the Muffled Drums are the first holiday boys at Ovingdean for nearly ten years. We can recommend it. You'll enjoy a stay at Ovingdean.

THE WANDERER.

From the Chairman's Post-Bag

"I was wondering if some arrangement might be made with the B.B.C. so that the Talking Book Department might be allowed to record for their use the wireless plays."

GEORGE MORTIMER.

Sir Ian replies: "We have seriously considered recording broadcast plays, but we feel that we would be duplicating what is already available, and thus depriving the blind of a certain amount of reading material. Our Library is so limited that we do not want to put into it anything that can be heard through another medium."

West House Notes

As our time at West House draws to a close, we try to make the most of all the entertainment and gaiety we can, but those men, escorts and staff who attended the party given by Simpson's of Piccadilly on September 8th had no difficulty in having a really superb evening. Sixty-two from West House joined the London men and other guests at 6 p.m. for cocktails, after which they adjourned to the Ballroom and downstairs bar. Everything, as usual whenever Simpson's give a party for the lads, was splendidly arranged and their staff gave of their best service. The band with Mr. Teddy Lawford was excellent. Free beer was provided and other delicious refreshments.

We had several breaks from dancing during the evening, the first being when Sir Ian, Dr. Simpson, Colonel E. Baker, O.B.E., M.C. (a distinguished figure in the Blind World of North America and Canada), and other guests, including one of the Australian trainees, Trevor Baker, from Ovingdean, made brief speeches. Later we had three cabaret turns, and then, with half an hour's dancing in between, came Judy Shirley and Jack Barker, whose turn met with much applause. Last, but not least, we had our friend, Thora Hird, who has previously visited West House and has caught not a little of the St. Dunstan's spirit. Dancing was resumed and we broke up at 11 p.m., and I might add no one needed rocking on arriving back in Brighton in the region of 1 a.m. on the Friday morning.

On September 10th we had our annual tea party for the escorts. All our guests appeared to enjoy themselves and we had several competitions. We were so happy that Lady Fraser, Matron Pain and the Misses Carlton and Heap from Ovingdean were able to come along to make the acquaintance of our escorts.

Friday night dances have been well attended and on the 23rd the men down for the week-end for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup Games at Ovingdean joined our boys here.

Several of our men went to the Battle of Britain Service at the Dome on Sunday, September 19th.

September, as most of you know, was not without its note of sadness and we

were all very grieved at the passing of "Sammy" Shields and Harold Birley.

It is hoped to give you the news of the last twenty-two days' activities at West House in the November issue of the REVIEW, which will, of course, be published after we have closed down for the re-building.

Bowls

A blind bowls player in New Zealand—not a St. Dunstaner but a World War I veteran who lost his sight at his work a few years afterwards—has sent us a most interesting Press cutting relating to his skill at bowls. He is Mr. F. A. Clarke, of Hazel Street, Upper Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand. We feel that bowls players among St. Dunstaners might be interested in his prowess at this game and if they would like to get in touch with him, will probably get some enjoyment from correspondence on their mutual hobby.

Our friends in the Dominions seem keener players of bowls than we have so far been. Captain Gilbert Nobbs recently took a party of blinded Australian St. Dunstaners to the Bowling Green at Manly. "Local bowlers," wrote "Reveille," the Australian magazine for returned ex-Servicemen, "were intrigued as to whether they would master the game. Not only was it proved that the game was possible for blinded soldiers, but they showed uncanny skill—a number of shots receiving well-merited applause from the spectators."

The President of the Club welcomed the blinded "diggers," saying that the game that day was unique. He hoped that the game would bring to the blinded players that spirit of comradeship so emblematic of the sport. In reply, Captain Nobbs said those there to-day would inspire others. This would not be for showmanship, but the fulfilment of the wish to fraternise with their fellow men.

Razor Blades Wanted

Chris Williams, of Kingston, would welcome old, clean razor blades in any quantity. He has found a market for them and is selling them for the benefit of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Gifts of blades should be sent to him at 36 Tudor Road, Kingston-on-Thames.

From London To Worthing

—By Taxi!

On Friday, September 9th, twenty-five London St. Dunstaners and their escorts were given a very enjoyable outing to Worthing by the Fulham Taxi and Allied Trades Benevolent Association. The following is a first-hand account by a St. Dunstaner who was one of the guests:—

"After assembling at 191 Marylebone Road at 9 a.m., each couple was given the number of a taxi, whereupon the driver of that vehicle was responsible for his fare throughout the day. We moved off to a good start and drove via Hyde Park and Fulham to the open country. A splendid drive through lanes took us to the village of Lowfield Green, in Sussex, where a halt was called for sandwiches and liquid refreshments, provided by the local British Legion and Women's Institute. After this welcome break we again boarded our respective taxis and proceeded in convoy to the amazement of the villagers, who stared open-eyed at twenty-five London taxis disturbing the peace of the Sussex countryside, and wondered if it was some new manœuvre or anti-invasion venture!

We finally arrived at Worthing prompt at 1 p.m., where we drove along the front to Bestmayes. We alighted and were greeted by the Mayor and Mayoress of Worthing. After the mayoral welcome, we entered Bestmayes for a delightful lunch of chicken, ice-cream, etc., with drinks to suit every palate! After the toast to the King was drunk, the Mayor made a short speech of welcome, followed by a few words from Mr. L. W. Wightman, the Secretary of the Fulham Taxi Benevolent Association. Mr. C. E. Thomas responded on behalf of St. Dunstan's. The party then broke up and spent a lovely afternoon wandering round Worthing, escorted by their drivers. We returned to Bestmayes for tea at 5 p.m., then set out in convoy once more for the return journey to London, again stopping at Lowfield Green for excellent refreshments. With some difficulty everybody was persuaded to rejoin the taxis and we were all taken as near to our homes as possible.

I would like to pay tribute to the organisers for the well-timed and faultless planning in this day's outing. It was indeed a great success and pleasure to us all."

H.C.

Talking Book Library

A mixed bag of six books has, I believe, put paid to a few of the already groaning library shelves. History, adventure, and whimsy cover the books as rough headings.

"The Private Adventure of Captain Shaw," by Edith Shay, read Lionel Marson, is set in the late eighteenth century and depicts a young Yankee sea skipper detained by the French during the Reign of Terror, his vicissitudes and subsequent triumph. There is a two-fold love interest and, in all, it is quite a good yarn.

"The Purple Plain," by H. E. Bates, read Franklyn Engelmann, is a last war story of the R.A.F. in Burma at a period when those initials no longer meant our Royal Absent Friends. A fine sample of descriptive writing, plus nervous tension, a beautiful portion of Burmese overtime, and the inevitable prang make a wizzo story.

The Collected Short Stories of E. M. Forster, by, strangely enough, E. M. Forster, read Arthur Bush, is the best of its kind to date, and of the collection "The Machine Stops" was the yarn I preferred.

"Garibaldi and the Making of Italy," by G. M. Trevelyan, read Duncan Carse, is beautifully written history, and personally, I bracket this man, G. M. Trevelyan, with Winston Spencer Churchill as *the* literary giants of our day.

"The Story of an African Farm," by Olive Schreiner, read Gordon Little, is the whimsy part of my heading, but is interspersed with anecdotal fact. A tragedy of two girls and a boy during their upbringing on the veldt. A trifle dated but interesting.

"Judith Paris," by Hugh Walpole, read Eric Gillett, is somewhat heavy going, in the author's series of the Herries family, and, I suspect, the reader had great difficulty in remaining awake over some prosy passages. The Cumberland setting is refreshing but the scarcity of incident makes the book tedious.

Blessings!

"FATHER NELSON."

★ ★ ★

T. Till, of Lancaster, is back in this country after a 9,000-mile round trip by plane to Arizona. He had been away nearly a year. On the flight home he was introduced to Carnera, the ex-heavyweight boxing champion.

Hitch-hiking— with a Wooden Eye

Perhaps you will say there is nothing remarkable about this story; it is only a record of a hitch-hike of 250 miles by a man of 41 and a boy of 14. As, however, the planning and completion of this journey has had the effect of restoring my self-confidence and dispelling the growing sense of frustration that was getting me down, it may also encourage others. Also, it facilitated the annual fortnight's holiday in the West Country, otherwise impossible through high costs.

My son, a Scout, suggested hitch-hiking. He had a tent weighing 4½lbs., mess tin, solid fuel cooker, enamel mug, ground-sheet, four ex-army blankets and toilet case, and my wife made two rucksacks from coat canvas at a cost of 3s. 11d. When fully packed, they weighed 24lbs. each. Sufficient rationed goods were included to allow four breakfasts to be cooked; for other meals we relied on cafes.

The route was checked; all that was wanted was fine weather. We started from Brighton on August 17th in brilliant sunshine, and at Worthing we received our first lift—a most fortunate one. Arundel, Chichester, Havant and Romsey were quickly left behind, and we were set down in Salisbury in time for lunch and a visit to the Cathedral. Reluctantly we left its cool shade behind and set off along the hot, dusty road to Wilton. At Shaftesbury a Somerset miller responded to our signals; he entertained us vastly while making his village calls, which ended at Mudford, three miles from Yeovil, where we decided to spend the night. A man in an orchard proved to be the village postmaster, baker and general storekeeper, and promptly offered us the orchard as a site. Whilst I made the beds, Brian prepared a welcome supper of eggs, cheese and salad, eaten in the hush of a cool and lovely evening. I fell asleep thinking how easily we had covered more than half the journey in pleasant and diverse companionship.

Reveille was crowed by a cock at 5.45 a.m.—a cloudy morning, hot and oppressive. As I completed my toilet, inwardly blessing the soft West Country water that allows one to shave comfortably in cold water, large thunder drops fell in scattered flurries. Soon we were on the road for Yeovil, and

took a 'bus through the town. On the Crewkerne road rain was falling heavily, but after a small private bus had carried us to Chard, there was bright sunshine again. Thence a 16-mile tramp to Honiton, where an Army officer offered us a lift to the Exeter by-pass. After lunch in a cafe, and a four-mile walk with thunder threatening, a van picked us up and soon we were entering the Plymouth city boundaries; as we did so the sun broke through. We were completing our trip as we had begun it, in beautiful sunshine. We made our way along the lovely Armada Way, and in a few minutes were at our destination—two days earlier than we had thought. We were on top of the world.

So, after a year of feeling my movements restricted, and inability to live normally since I was both blind and diabetic, I have regained morale, self-respect and confidence; I can now return to St. Dunstan's with the knowledge that my future career is assured of success.

And my wooden eye (my walking stick) is safely parked in the hall stand, waiting for the next summer holiday.

Footnote—Expenditure on meals, 15s. 2d.
C.V.L.M.

Summer Holiday at Northgate

It was with a very sad heart that I said "goodbye" to Northgate, after my lovely summer holiday, my last visit there.

The weather was simply perfect; most days we were on the beach where we had immense fun bathing, also catching shrimps, in which everyone had great interest.

One afternoon we all went into Brighton to see the Viking ship, which was really very interesting, and, to our great surprise, went out in a motor boat which sailed right round the ship.

We often went for the most beautiful walks. We would set off with our tea packed up in the old pram, nicknamed the "Hugin," and would make our way up over the Downs.

The view from Northgate is really wonderful. From the windows both the sea and the Downs can be seen, also the dear old windmill, which looks over the village.

I would like to say to all those children who have not yet been to Northgate, to try and persuade your parents to let you go. You can be assured of enjoying a really good holiday. MARY LOVERIDGE.

St. Dunstan's Camps

"What are these Camps?" I am so often asked by St. Dunstaners who have never been. And new campers tell me after the first day, "We never thought it was like this!"

Well, what are they? They were started by the Navy in 1945—Commodore Larcombe heard how St. Dunstaners before the war had held camps and that war conditions, rations, etc., made a revival very difficult. He said "I think the Navy could help. We can give you accommodation, feed you, and arrange a programme of entertainments."

So the Navy took us "on board," and gave us that warm-hearted welcome which belongs to the Services. They were a little shy at first, but, as usual, St. Dunstaners soon put them at their ease; then they enjoyed it as much as their guests. Year after year I have been told that our visit is good for the morale of the station, and that there are no grouses for weeks after we leave.

In five years we have made many good friends at Lee-on-Solent. Two of the best friends ever have been transferred from H.M.S. Daedalus to St. Dunstan's—I mean Commandant Fawcett and Chiefy Moore.

What a summer this has been! At Lee this year we could sun-bathe and sea-bathe all the time. The Solent was calm and lovely for our trips to the Isle of Wight in Air-Sea Rescue Boats, and St. Dunstaners took the helm in turn. There were conducted parties round the air station to inspect all the new types of planes, and campers went into the link trainer to get the sensation of piloting an aircraft.

A three-mile walking race, with naval escorts, made a great impression on the Navy, who are putting up a silver challenge cup next year, to be kept in the Ward Room, and a miniature cup for the winner. The Navy's estimate for the time for the course was 40 minutes. Congratulations to:

Jerry Jerome,	home in 26 mins.
Duggie Faulkner,	1st T.B. 26.10 sec.
Paddy Campbell,	" 26.25 sec.
George Fallowfield	26.40 sec.

Next morning a programme of field sports was laid on. Joe Kibbler's time in the running surprised the Navy.

Our evenings were spent at parties and dances in a different mess each night, the

messes competing to see who can arrange the best show.

The popularity of the week at Lee has made it impossible for years to find enough beds for all who apply, so this summer the R.A.F. were asked if they would have a Camp as well. They offered a most delightful site at Shawbury R.A.F. Station. Being near Church Stretton I thought this would appeal to men who knew that country in their training days.

It was all new to the R.A.F., and at first they were a little over-anxious, and so afraid we should not find enough amusement. I think they were amazed how happy we were in our own party, rowing, swimming, basking in the sun, playing cards, etc. My husband joined the party at Shawbury on the third day of camp and was amused to hear all the R.A.F. discussing what they would do at the camp "next year."

The "barracks" were not like barracks at all. Everyone had a room to himself, with fitted drawers and cupboards. Two charming sitting rooms at a Y.M.C.A. were put at our disposal with radiogram, wireless, and tea at all hours, and there was also a most friendly sergeants' mess.

Shawbury is rather different to Lee. It is a quiet country holiday, with swimming and rowing, country walks, and darts at the village local. Some days, trips to Shrewsbury, and a glorious day in the Carding Mill Valley at Church Stretton. Some evenings were left free and there were two dances and a very good show in the theatre by well-known B.B.C. stars.

Thank you, R.A.F.

A. SPURWAY.

Stewart MacPherson Thanks St. Dunstaners

From the "Sunday Chronicle," September 18th:

"But let me be serious for just one moment. I do want humbly to thank those most gracious people in St. Dunstan's who have sent me those far too complimentary letters in braille.

They will be a cherished possession of mine. I don't quite know how to say 'thank you' really, but if that Canadian tongue of mine can perhaps help you to 'see' the things you cannot, I shall be a very happy man.

Thank you, gentlemen, for a great compliment."

STEWART MACPHERSON.

Ovingdean Notes

Variety, they say, is the spice of life. This then may be one reason why it is hard for us to realise that not a month has yet passed since our return to the Training Centre from our summer holiday.

Straight away we found ourselves enveloped in a host of different activities. Firstly, there was the Physiotherapy Conference and almost immediately afterwards we welcomed to Ovingdean the finalists to the St. Dunstan's Club games. These came from all parts of the country and though they stayed only for a week-end yet it gave us all, staff and trainees, an opportunity of meeting some of the men who, we hope, will be coming to Ovingdean in increasing numbers as time goes on. The result of the games will be reported elsewhere in the REVIEW, so it only remains for us to say we hope our visitors enjoyed themselves.

About the Deaf Reunion, which has just ended, we will say little except that if the fellows enjoyed themselves as much as we did in having them, then they surely had a grand time—and we believe they did. We shall look forward to their return.

Amongst our visitors to Ovingdean this month we have been happy to welcome Colonel Baker, from the Canadian N.I.B. and himself a St. Dunstaner of World War I. He came first as a guest of the Physiotherapy Conference and later returned to make a tour of the Training Centre to get first-hand knowledge of what is being done here.

The really remarkably fine weather we have had this summer made it possible for us to enjoy to the full the excellent arrangements made by Mr. Cheeseman (London) for the last River trip of the season. On this occasion, as previously, we were joined by other disabled ex-Servicemen and, to the accompaniment of a special band on board, we steamed gaily down the Thames to Windsor.

A very pleasant evening was organised for our visiting Darts Match Team when they visited Worthing on September 21st. The host was, once again, the Mayor of Worthing who, by this time, is counted as an old friend of the team.

Test Results

Preliminary.—J. G. Hill, A. Hodges.

Advanced.—J. H. E. Davies, R. Evans.

Senior.—D. Jennings.

Writing.—T. Baker (Australian), H. Duxbury, C. Fraser, G. Clarkson, E. Crook, J. Blakeley, C. G. S. Oliver, J. H. E. Davies.

Typing.—M. Wesley, W. P. Scott.

A Modern Application for a Job!

DEAR SIR,

By your advertisement I see you are needing the assistance of a highly experienced, reliable and intelligent telephone operator, with exceptional qualifications. As that exactly describes myself, you are fortunate to meet me; I shall be free next week and might help you. My present firm has been enjoying my assistance for ten years; they are most distressed at my departure and at a loss to know how they can carry on without me.

Should I accept your post, my requirements are:

1. Ten pounds a week salary, to be paid in advance.
2. A five-day week and a five-hour day.
3. Two months' holiday, to be fixed by myself.
4. For transport, either a car or allowance to cover taxi fares.
5. Canteen meals to be provided, or some equivalent.
6. Nobody else to be allowed in my office or to control my work.

It will be well to reply by return or you risk the disappointment of losing me. You have twenty-four hours to consider, after which time no reply can receive attention.

Yours (if you are lucky enough to get me),
S. B.

A Puff of Smoke

The new Sister was escorting two St. Dunstaners to a place of entertainment. St. Dunstaner: "Sister, when we get there will you see if you can get me a Manniken?" "A mannequin, Jimmy," slightly astonished. "Yes, I often get one there, I like them." Sister, more perturbed than ever: "But I don't know how to get one for you, I've never been asked before." St. Dunstaner: "Why, you've only to ask and they'll soon say if they have one." Sister now takes the plunge. "But, Jimmy, mannequins are girls." "Girls, I don't want a girl, I want to smoke!" Collapse of second St. Dunstaner, and was Sister's face red! "WESTHOUSIAN."

Young St. Dunstaners

Raymond Burgin, Southwick, has passed the University of London Intermediate examination in Science and now hopes to go forward to his final Honours Degree.

Raymond Sharpe, Kirkstall, Leeds, who has been trained at the Royal Military School of Music, gained a second prize for clarinet playing from 250 candidates and an additional certificate for the violin.

Leonard Frampton, Highams Park, has passed his Inter B.Sc. (Eng.) examination and was also referred in one subject of the first part.

Norman Hunt, Regent's Park, has matriculated with three distinctions and five credits.

Jean Clover, Long Melford, has passed her Cambridge School Certificate with eight credits and one pass.

Brenda Hazel, S.W.19, has passed her Higher School Certificate with exemption from the Intermediate.

Mr. and Mrs. Hildick's son, of the Metropolitan Police, has done well in examinations and hopes shortly to go into the C.I.D.

Maisie Gore (*nee* Maisie Taylor), Bournemouth, who last year won the "Sunday Pictorial" Open Air Girl competition, with a free week at Butlin's Camp, this year won the "Holiday Princess" competition at the same camp.

Marriages

Jean McCairn, Birkenhead, on July 16th to Matthew Anderson.

Eileen Milner, Aintree, on July 23rd to J. W. Lynch.

Robert Kennedy, Barnhill, by Dundee, on May 7th to Helen Montague.

David Hollinrake, Haslingden, on April 2nd to Dorothy Preston.

Raymond Boase, Bradford, on July 23rd to Marjorie Hilda Litt.

Dennis Temperton, Ingleton, on August 13th to Joan Adams; and Betty Temperton to James Fletcher.

Frederick Porter, Seven Kings, on July 23rd, to Joyce Munford.

Joan Hill, Blackpool, on September 19th.

Edward Brockie, Torphins, on September 1st, to Frieda Fry.

Grandfather

W. Samworth, Edgware. His son, Terence, who used to work at St. Dunstan's, now has a son.

Colonel E. R. Bickerton

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of that good friend of St. Dunstan's, Colonel R. E. Bickerton, R.A.M.C. (T.), D.S.O., M.B., CH.B., who has been a member of St. Dunstan's Ophthalmic Advisory Board since its formation in 1922, and Honorary Secretary of the Medical Advisory Committee since 1930.

Colonel Bickerton took much more than an ordinary professional interest in the men of St. Dunstan's, and hundreds of men of both wars who passed through his hands will remember with deep affection his wise advice and generous friendly care.

A Memorial Service was held at the Church of All Saints, Margaret Street, London, on September 19th, at which St. Dunstan's was represented by Mr. L. Banks, Pensions Officer, and the men of St. Dunstan's by Messrs. H. Crabtree, N. Downs, and W. Lacey. Corporal Major Dawkins escorted the party.

Among the wreaths sent for the funeral were poppy wreaths from St. Dunstan's officers and men, the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's, and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Muir, Whitley Bay, July 26th, Mr. and Mrs. T. Milner, Aintree, Liverpool, September 23rd, and Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Brown, Burton-on-Trent, September 27th.

Thoughts at Armistice Day

Friends at Rest

*Grieve not, gentle souls. The night of waiting
Passes in swift tranquillity away,
And the sympathetic stars that fill your eyes
Fade in the promise of approaching day.
Yet pray for us; earth's self-diminished hour
Of meteoric flight draws to its close;
For even as you bend in prayer, shall come
That dawning whence the light supernal flows.*

*Grieve not, good friends, but take your rest
In the pleasant anteroom of Paradise,
'Till full perfection clothe you with its grace
And soothe and satisfy your deepest sighs.
Earth melts away; yet with its perishing
Heaven's morning breaks in sweet, unending day.
'Twill not be long, for the fingertips of time
Already touch the hilltops far away.*

R. J. V.

“ In Memory ”

Corporal Charles McIntosh, 5th Highland Light Infantry

With deep regret we have to record the death of Charles McIntosh, a St. Dunstaner whom many of the early training days will remember as an outstanding and fine personality. He served from August 11th until October, 1916, and came to St. Dunstan's soon afterwards. He was wounded at Gallipoli; he not only lost his sight but his right leg and one finger were amputated. He trained first as a shorthand typist, then as a poultry farmer and worked with great success in Scotland for many years.

A short while ago he was taken ill. He was to have attended the Edinburgh Reunion for the presentation to Miss Wood, in which he had taken an active part, but this was impossible. He was taken to hospital in Edinburgh, where he died on September 1st.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his friends at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral in Edinburgh. Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and family.

Trooper John Hugh Matthews, 2nd Life Guards

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. H. Matthews, of Rhyl. Serving from November 20th, 1914; he was wounded in December, 1916, and he came to us two years later. He trained as a basket maker, and he carried on this work right up to within a short while of his death. He had, however, not been a fit man for a considerable time. He was admitted to hospital on August 12th, and he died there five days later.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends. We extend our deep sympathy to his wife and family.

Private Harold Birley, 2-5th Manchester Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of H. Birley, of Swinton, Lancs., who came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1917, after having been wounded at Cambrai. He trained in boot-repairing and mat-making, and worked at his trade for many years, but his health had begun to fail and he was obliged eventually to give up boot-repairing. Some time ago he had a severe heart attack, but he was especially anxious to spend his holiday with his friends, particularly J. L. Housden, at Brighton. To our regret he was taken ill and died the day after his arrival at West House.

His body was taken home for burial, and Mrs. Dunphy, St. Dunstaner W. Joyce, Mrs. Eaton and Mrs. Lang, of the Manchester Club, were present at the funeral, for which a wreath was sent from Sir Ian Fraser.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Gunner Edward Bates, Royal Horse Artillery

With deep regret we record the death of E. Bates, of Guildford. When the war of 1914-1918 broke out, he was serving as a regular soldier with his regiment. He was wounded in October, 1914, and came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1915, one of the first twelve men to be admitted. He trained as a masseur, but in 1946 he was forced to give up working on account of his poor health. His wife had nursed him devotedly but she herself became ill, and it was arranged that he should go to Ovingdean, but he died there on September 21st.

The funeral took place at Leatherhead, and among the many flowers was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Births

EARNSHAW.—On September 22nd, to the wife of H. Earnshaw, of Morris Green, Bolton, a daughter—Brenda Ann.

FOWLER.—On October 6th, to the wife of Stanley Fowler, of Beeston, Notts, a daughter—Yvonne Collette.

GRESSON.—On July 25th, to the wife of F. Gresson, of Horsham, a son—Barry Victor.

PRESTON.—On September 28th, to Isobel, wife of Geoff. Preston, a daughter—Gail.

TINGAY.—On October 10th, to the wife of R. Tingay, of Patcham, a son—Michael Roland.

TREVELION.—On October 5th, to the wife of L. Trevelion, of Margate, a daughter—Eileen Elizabeth.

Death

CORNS.—Our deep sympathy goes out to Isaac Corns, at present in Victoria, Australia, who lost his wife on September 14th.

Marriages

CHADWICK—SHIELS.—On July 29th, C. Chadwick, of Rochdale, to Miss R. Shiels.

MILLER — FOSTER.—On September 24th, H. S. Miller, of Skegness, to Mrs. Foster.

PENNELLS — GOLDSMITH-DEBONAIRE.—At St. Mark's Church, Brighton, on September 10th, C. J. Pennells, of Brighton, to A. M. Goldsmith-Debonaire.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

WE spend so much time—mostly justifiably—cursing all Governments and Government Departments that it seems only fair occasionally to give a word of praise where praise is due. My house in Regent's Park was destroyed by fire during an air raid in March, 1944, and at last it has been repaired, mainly at the cost of the War Damage Commission, and we have moved back into it after five years of exile or inconvenient living. What a pleasure it is to get home once again and, so far as a blind man is concerned, to enjoy surroundings that he knows, where every feature, step or corner is familiar. The War Damage Commission has dealt with the matter of my house courteously, efficiently and with reasonable generosity. Acting on behalf of a very large number of blinded ex-Servicemen, St. Dunstan's has also had many dealings with the War Damage Commission during the last few years, and our officials, too, with few exceptions, have had the same experience. Here then is an organ of government, mobilised for a particular emergency, which has carried out its unusual task well and deserves our thanks.

Furnishing is a bit of a job, especially with prices so high, and in this field the Commission's insurance cover is quite inadequate to meet the immense rise in costs of recent years.

Walter Thornton wrote to the REVIEW some months ago that when he was carrying his baby he walked backwards so as not to bump the child's head on sharp corners. My wife and I have been moving furniture these past weeks and I have taken a tip from Walter, for I find that walking backwards carrying a piece of furniture I am less likely to crush the article itself or my own fingers.

With a little practice you can learn to walk backwards most efficiently, and if you aren't able to look where you are going, it doesn't seem to me to matter very much. Here, perhaps, the philosopher may think, is an excellent case in which the blind man is better off than the other fellow.

Whether it was moving the furniture or catching a chill, I do not know, but the last few days I have been suffering from an acute pain in the left shoulder which hinders my use of my left hand. I cannot lift it or put it up to my collar or face without great difficulty. It is a personal experience of no great importance to anyone but myself, but it has demonstrated to me more than any amount of talk and imagination could have done how crippling it is to be without the full use of a hand—and in my case I happen to be left-handed. I have been putting on my collar, shaving, and most difficult of all, doing up my back trouser buttons with one hand, and this the least effective. My sympathy and understanding goes out to those St. Dunstaners who have only one hand. An ounce of experience is worth a lot of theory.

Last month I mentioned walking sticks. To-day I have a suggestion from a sympathetic correspondent who saw a blind girl in trouble with her guide dog, and the crowd looking on not knowing that she was blind. My correspondent suggested the dog should wear a white leather bow or carry some other distinguishing mark. I have thanked my correspondent for her kindly suggestion, but I have added that I doubt whether St. Dunstaners who have a guide dog would welcome this. I remember before the war the German dogs used to wear a large Red Cross on each side of their harness. What do those concerned think?

IAN FRASER.

Reminder

If you have not yet applied to Mr. Mackay for your ticket for the **London Reunion Dance** at the Seymour Hall on Wednesday, December 7th, you should do so immediately. One ticket will admit a St. Dunstaner and one escort, but it is regretted that children under 16 cannot be included. The Reunion, of course, is primarily for men living in the London area.

Filter-Tip Cigarettes—A. Warning

One of our shop-keepers has brought to our notice the filter-tip cigarettes which are now on the market and asks us to warn St. Dunstaners of the danger of the red-hot end dropping out on to clothes or furniture. We understand that the big tobacco companies are aware of this risk and are investigating the matter. They say that there is a blue line of warning on the cigarettes, but that few people take notice of it.

Remembrance Day

A party of some fifty St. Dunstaners and their escorts met at 191 Marylebone Road, on the morning of Sunday, November 6th, before moving off to Wellington Barracks to join up with the British Legion parade. Then, in soldierly columns, they marched to the Cenotaph for the Service of Remembrance. The wreath, from the men of St. Dunstan's all over the Empire, was placed on the Cenotaph by Percy Ashton.

The previous afternoon and evening, a number of St. Dunstaners had attended the wonderfully impressive Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

Old Contemptibles

Sergeant Alan Nichols wonders how many Old Contemptibles among St. Dunstaners are still living. We, too, would like to know as a point of interest. Just a post-card, please, giving name, regiment and date, if possible, of landing in France, to the Editor, 1 South Audley Street, W.1.

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

The Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson will be held in the Chapel of the Ovingdean Home at 5.15 p.m. on Sunday, December 4th. It is hoped that all St. Dunstaners living locally will be able to attend.

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, a party of St. Dunstaners will proceed to Hampstead Cemetery from Headquarters to place a wreath upon Sir Arthur's grave. Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Askew, at Headquarters.

Four Thousand Miles Away

Many St. Dunstaners will remember Mr. Tom Graves, who for many years was a popular member of the Accounts Department at St. Dunstan's. Mr. Graves has had an appointment on the Gold Coast for some years now but he never forgets St. Dunstaners, and in a letter to Sir Ian recently, he wrote: "Whilst visiting Kumasi Hospital recently, I was given tea by Matron and I was thrilled to observe it was served on a St. Dunstan's oak tray. Kumasi is the capital of Ashanti, 170 miles inland from Takoradi, and nearly 4,000 miles from Raglan Street."

Placements

A. Rayner, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. S. Wolf & Co., Ealing; D. Jennings, as a telephone operator with the South Eastern Electricity Board, Worthing; G. J. Salters, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Gresham & Craven, Salford; R. A. Harmsworth, as a shop-keeper in the business formerly run by J. W. McConnell, at London Road, Salisbury; D. C. R. (Rex) Cole, as a shop-keeper at Lower Tuffley, Gloucester, whose shop was officially opened by the Mayor of Gloucester on October 14th.

Club Notes

London

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held at Headquarters on January 6th, 1950, at 7.30 p.m. The Committee hopes that all members will make a special effort to attend.

Our Club has been very active this month and the Whist Drive Tuesday evening has attracted quite a number of newcomers. This week sees the end of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Whist Prize Competition.

The Club will be closed on December 5th as we have the Dance at the Chelsea Town Hall.

Bridge Notes

The prestige of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club was substantially enhanced at the Ilkley Annual Bridge Congress, when Messrs. Coles and Winter pulled off "The Double," taking first place honours in two "Pairs Competitions." Mr. Jack Armstrong, a stalwart supporter of our Bridge Club, rendered the party valuable service and his assistance was very much appreciated.

On October 22nd, one of the Club's most valuable assets—"Aubrey"—said "au revoir" on leaving London to take over a Guest House at Lynton. However, it gave us an opportunity of showing our appreciation of his great assistance over so many years (especially on our trips to Harrogate), and he was presented with a table lamp as a little memento.

Miss Turner was also in the limelight, for we presented her with a rug as a token of appreciation on the occasion of her wedding. Luckily for us she has chosen a husband (or should I say a husband has chosen her), who will enable us to keep in touch with her on alternate Saturdays.

On behalf of the Club in general and myself in particular, may you, Miss Turner, and "Aubrey," have health, happiness and prosperity throughout the ensuing years.

Also on October 22nd, the match "North v. South" (of the Thames) was played and North gained the victory by a meagre 300 points.

NOTE.—*All Bridge Players:* The Annual General Meeting will be held at Headquarters on December 10th at 2.30 p.m. sharp, and the Bridge Christmas Party will be held on December 17th at 2.30 p.m.

FRANK A. RHODES.

Indoor Events

The BONNY BABY PHOTO COMPETITION was well supported, entries coming from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and all parts of England (156 entries in all). Lady Fraser, Lady Stern and Dr. John Hunt were confronted with an array of baby photos which would have compared with any representative group the world over, and their task was difficult. Long and deliberate was their scrutiny of each photo, and slowly the process of elimination took place. Congratulations to the proud parents or grandparents of the following winners, each of whom will receive a prize of £3 or £2—first and second—respectively in each age group.

Group A—Girls

1st—Susan Mitchell, of Guildford.

2nd—Margaret Harris, of Crouch End.

Boys

1st—David Richard Brett, of Brighton.

2nd—John Glasspool, of Brixton Hill, S.W.

Group B—Girls

1st—Margaret Miller, of Glasgow.

2nd—Susan Miller, of Leamington Spa.

Boys

1st—Leslie Peter Baker, of Billericay.

2nd—Roy Martin Hart, of Brackley.

Group C—Girls

1st—Pauline Margaret Simonite, of Leighton Buzzard.

2nd—Margaret Potts, of Ovingdean.

Boys

1st—Bill Thompson, of Gateshead.

2nd—David Ernest Young, of Bury St. Edmunds.

Many thanks to all who sent entries.

DANCE at Chelsea Town Hall, December 5th. Tickets are still available. One man—one escort. Tickets free. Please let me have your application.

DANCING COMPETITIONS will be held, also at the Chelsea Town Hall, on January 13th. Tickets 2s. 6d. Events—old-time waltz and slow foxtrot.

TINY FLEMING.

Outdoor Sports

The outstanding event was the two-mile walk on October 29th, the results of which given overleaf show the excellent standard of walking. Some very fast times are being put up.

The next walk is over three miles on December 3rd, from the Inner Circle, Regent's Park, at 3 p.m. In conjunction with this will be a Novices' Race. So now is the chance for new fellows to "have a go." Send your entries to the Club or to me as soon as possible. A five miler follows on January 28th.

The swimming season has ended and rowing has finished but the gym is still open at 204A Great Portland Street, W.1, and the hours have been extended from 6 until 7.30 p.m.

It has been suggested that we have a running race. Well, why not? Send your entries or enquiries to me at the Club and we will find escorts and make the necessary arrangements.

T. GAYGAN.

2-mile Sealed Handicap, October 29th

Competitor	H'cap time	Allow.	Actual time	Pos.	Pts.
A. Brown ...	17.04	Scratch	17.04	1	1
W. Miller ...	17.15	0.50	18.05	4	1
A. G. Bradley	17.46	2.10	19.56	7	1
W. T. Scott ...	16.37	3.25	20.02	8	1
J. Lynch ...	16.08	5.10	21.18	9	4
P. G. Crynan	15.14	3.00	18.14	5	—
T. Denmead...	15.55	3.00	18.55	6	—
T. Gaygan ...	16.29	0.40	17.09	2	3
C. Williamson	16.41	2.00	17.41	3	5
E. Cookson ...	16.30	5.30	22.00	10	2

Prize Winners—

Handicap Section A—1st: P. G. Crynan; 2nd: T. Denmead.

Handicap Section B—1st: C. Williamson.

Fastest Loser, Section A—A. Brown

Fastest Loser, Section B—T. Gaygan.

Institute of Magicians

On another page a detailed description of our conjuring tricks is given by the Editor, who was a lynx-eyed spectator at the Birthday show.

If any St. Dunstaners, especially recent war members, are interested in these tricks, and would like to be initiated in the art of Magic, will they please get in touch with Mr. Mackay at Headquarters and he will furnish them with all particulars. As Christmas is drawing near, now is the time to start conjuring. We welcome you, including escorts, on Monday nights at about 7.30 p.m. at Headquarters.

NOTE.—Dec. 5th will be a blank night as our instructor-magicians will be having a night off. ALF WILTSHIRE (Representative).

OVERHEARD

Bob, rising from the dinner table at West House: "Au revoir, gentlemen and Scotsmen."

A Jock: "Well, Bob, seeing that these collective nouns are synonymous, you are guilty of an invidious, grammatical redundancy!"

Liverpool

The Frisbies Invade Blackpool

On Sunday, October 30th, a very happy party of members and wives, or escorts, of the Liverpool Club visited the Blackpool Home at the kind invitation of Matron Davies. Leaving Liverpool in beautiful sunshine shortly after 10 a.m., we travelled by motor coach equipped with radio which entertained us with Billy Cotton's Band and the Wilfred Pickles programme. After gliding through the countryside for more than an hour we called a halt at the tavern known as the "Rose & Crown," where we enjoyed a nice cup of tea and sandwiches. Once again we got under way and without further stops we reached Blackpool about 1 p.m. startling the fellows at the Home, as we arrived, with a mighty yell. After a lot of chin-wagging with friends whom we met, Matron escorted our party to the Bourne Hotel, which is opposite the Home, where we dined most royally. Lunch being over we returned to the lounge, where a domino match took place between the rival "Pools" resulting in a tie for first prize between Jackson (Liverpool) and Taylor (Blackpool) with six games each but the "Frisbies" claimed team honours with an aggregate of 37 wins to 34. Whilst Matron conducted the ladies on a tour of the Home we were amusingly entertained by Joe (The Voice) Daly, accompanied by Sister D. at the piano. Tea was then served, after which Matron announced for the special benefit of the ladies, a game of Musical Knees, which provided a great deal of amusement and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, the winner being Peggy Watts.

However, all good things must come to an end and the time arrived, only too quickly, for us to say goodbye. Before leaving, L. Jackson, Chairman of the Liverpool Club, expressed on behalf of us all, our very sincere thanks to the Matron and staff for a wonderful day.

TOMMY M.

Birmingham

Of all the varied activities enjoyed recently by the Club, space permits mention of only a few.

The outing to Stratford-on-Avon was a very happy affair and everything went well. It took thirty-five of the Voluntary Transport Service cars to convey all our members,

escorts and helpers. We were met and welcomed by our numerous and hospitable Stratford friends, including Miss Chadwick herself. We spent a lazy hour on the river, and did more than justice to the picnic tea. We proceeded to a nearby field for sports and in spite of the hummocks we walked, ran, jumped, threw and tugged. Some of us remembered the tug-o'-war for a few days afterwards! The hospitality of the British Legion was still to be enjoyed, and eventually we were taken home, however far, by the V.T.S.

The Swimming Gala in September was a distinct success and augurs great things for next year. Messrs. Cadbury Bros. were our hosts, lending us their Men's Practice Bath, and providing all the competitors, guests and friends, with a delightful tea. We were disappointed that flat tyres prevented the Brighton team from joining us, but we quickly reorganised and swam Rest of England *v.* Birmingham, to the honour of Rest of England, who won the Birmingham St. Dunstan's Swimming Trophy by 33 points to 15. The standard set was high and there will be keen competition indeed in the contest of September, 1950, and a very warm welcome to all who can come. We were delighted to see so many of our older members in almost every event—no fewer than fourteen competitors took part in the swimming in all—and congratulate those whose names so often ranked among the winners, viz., Messrs. Stafford, Stanley, Waterworth and Thornton (who incidentally were the winning team).

We have several outstanding fixtures apart from our usual monthly meetings. We've had our first of some Saturday dances, and it was much enjoyed. Somehow it acquired the flavour of a Lee-on-Solent Camp dance, for we found ourselves "bobbing up and down like this," in true nautical style. If the Children's Party and the Club's Christmas Party prove to be as satisfying as last year's we shall have had a truly live and happy year. Many thanks to our B.R.C.S. team of helpers!

P. A. FAIRHEAD ("FAIRY").

100 Years Old

A special greeting from St. Dunstaners to Mrs. Lloyd, mother of our own Nurse Lloyd, who reached her 100th birthday on November 6th.

Mrs. Argyle

Mrs. Bessie Argyle, Welfare Visitor in the Midlands since 1936, is retiring at the end of November, having attained the age limit observed by St. Dunstan's. I am sure her many friends will join in wishing Mrs. Argyle happiness and good health in her retirement after the years of devoted and loyal service she has given to so many St. Dunstaners and their families living in the Midlands. It has been suggested to me already by several of her men that they would like to make her a little presentation, and I should be most happy to act as honorary treasurer for any contributions the St. Dunstaners whom she visited may like to send in to me at Headquarters.

Mrs. Argyle's place is being taken by Mrs. E. M. King, who was on the Ovingdean staff for several years and is already known to many new war St. Dunstaners. We extend to Mrs. King our very best wishes in her new appointment.

ALEX. MACKAY, *General Welfare Superintendent.*

Thirty Years Ago

From "St. Dunstan's Review," November, 1919:

"The last race, held at Putney on October 9th, was a very interesting event. It was the outcome of a sporting challenge issued by J. Gimber and W. Christian, of the College Annexe, to row any semi-sighted pairs in Pair Oars. The challenge was accepted by A. H. Craigie and L. E. Carter, of the Bungalow Annexe (although totally blind), H. N. Hardy and C. A. Fankhauser, of the House, and A. Blackwell and H. Glendenan, of the Bungalow Annexe. Hardy and Fankhauser won by about one and a quarter lengths, H. Glendenan and L. Jenkins (the latter taking Blackwell's place) second, A. H. Craigie and Carter third, and J. Gimber and W. Christian fourth. The race was extremely fast and even; in fact, the second, third and fourth boats all finished within boat's length.

"The Saturday Sports are going along in a most satisfactory way. Each Saturday the number of entries average about 200. Saturday, October 25th was a record, there being 257 entries."

FOR SALE

TANDEM.—Chater Lee, medium weight, latest four-speed Sturmey Archer gearing. Two panniers fitted at back but never used. Side-car chassis and fittings. Price £15, with or without the side-car, or nearest offer. L. Constable, 27 Bedford Road, Hessle, E. Yorks.

West House Notes

What a marvellous summer it has been, the last to be spent at West House as a Holiday Home! We certainly have much to be thankful for and it was with this in mind that we planned our rather special Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, October 2nd. As this was the last Service to be held before the closing down we decided that it should be in the Conservatory, as we expected a very large congregation including all the local St. Dunstaners and their families. About 300 people attended.

The fruit and floral decorations around the altar and walls were really magnificent particularly the Sussex trugs and the West House wheelbarrow.

So many people came laden with gifts, and we were particularly touched with the small fry who brought offerings to the Children's Corner. The following day George Taylor and Harry Day did a round of the hospitals distributing the fruit and flowers.

We were delighted that Sir Neville and Lady Pearson were able to be with us for the day, and their presence amongst us just gave the necessary fillip to make it such a success. Cannon Speight (who travelled from Worcester to be with us) and Padre Taylor officiated, Sir Neville reading the lesson. Thanks are due to George Killingbeck for his help in organising the choir and to Cathleen Ramsden and Charlie Thomas for the solos which together helped to make up such a beautiful service. It was grand team work between Ovingdean and West House.

Thora Hird was also with us for the day, and what a reception she received! We were so grateful to her friend, Geoffrey Inns, who took many photographs of individual groups in the garden and who is sending copies to all those concerned through Mrs. Hutchinson.

Mr. C. Singleton's friend, Mr. Swift, Organist (late B.B.C.), conceived the idea of a concert in the evening and he played several compositions beautifully. The choir also lent a hand in the Concert and George Killingbeck, Joe Walch, Bob Osborne and Cathleen Ramsden gave us a delightful rendering of the old favourite, "Chu Chin Chow." The whole show was compèred by Thora's small film star daughter, Janette Scott, who won the hearts of all the boys.

How delighted we were to welcome Jack Sullivan and his guest artistes on October 12th, who gave us a splendid evening's entertainment. The party included Walter Tate, Clifford Rawson, Tug Wilson, Mr. Spurling and Doris Seise. There was certainly no lack of variety and the peak of the evening was reached when the large barrel of beer, so thoughtfully provided by Mr. L. Barnet, was rolled out and distributed, together with the cigarettes kindly given by Mr. Gluckstein. Mrs. Mellor sent the most lovely gateaux and ice cream. Needless to say all this helped to make a never-to-be-forgotten evening.

The day of days was Thursday, October 20th, which started off with a Treasure Hunt at Arundel, where a marvellous tea was provided which compensated for the wet weather. Tiny Northcott and Mrs. Jones were the courageous couple who succeeded in finding all twelve articles and rightfully earned the prize. The evening started with a grand film show given by Messrs. G. Inns and P. Roberts, who brought their own apparatus by car in torrential rain from London. Commandant and Webster kept the dance going with a swing and although rather cramped for space our style was certainly not cramped and the Hokey-Kokey and the Conga were danced in the true West House style. The climax of the evening was reached when Tiny Northcott, on behalf of the West House Permanents and the Sick Bay at Ovingdean, presented Matron Ouseley with a cheque with which to buy a present, as a token of their love and esteem. All these sentiments were admirably summed up in a moving speech by Jock Boyd.

As the strains of Auld Lang Syne rang out it was evident that many were thinking of the other boys who were not able to be with us on this memorable occasion.

Dancing

Now that West House is closed, the Friday evening Dance was resumed at Ovingdean on November 11th, and will be held on every following Friday from 8 p.m. until 10.15 p.m.

Bandsmen Wanted

Ernie Cookson and his Band have vacancies for any St. Dunstaners interested in dance music. Enquiries to Ernie Cookson, 86 Thornhill Road, Barnsbury, London N.1.

Blackpool Notes

The Blackpool Home re-opened on October 3rd wearing its "new look," and the following day we had an amusing domino tournament—Ladies *v.* The Troops. We were one lady player short, so "Phyllis" McCarthy, of Manchester, filled the breach and fortunately won 1st prize. This necessitated the shuffling of prizes as we could hardly offer the gentleman a powder puff. Taffy Jones won first men's prize. On October 5th a small party went to Knott End which, as so many will remember, is across the river Wyre from Fleetwood. We are pleased to report that the land lubbers managed to find their sea legs and enjoyed the outing.

On Thursday, 13th, a happy party left for an afternoon trip to Scorton where, as usual, tea was most enjoyable, everything being home-made.

On Friday, 14th, we had our last trip of 1949 to the Lakes. In spite of the autumn weather everybody voted the afternoon a great success. We started out early in the day and had a delightful hot lunch at Bowness, and we returned to Carnforth in time for tea instead of for the stronger beverages usually served. The sail down Lake Windermere was as pleasant as ever—except perhaps for the "music" from the many instruments which appeared from the pockets of the sailors.

On Oct. 22nd we were pleased to welcome old friends from West House. All appear to be settling in comfortably. So are the staff who came with them. St. Dunstaners will be pleased to meet Sister McPartlin and the Misses Chaddock and Arnold, also Orderly Ball who is now our O.C. Dining-room.

October 30th was a great day—the Liverpool Club came along in full force and, after an excellent lunch at the Bourne Hotel, invaded the Blackpool Home to beat us at dominoes—Liverpool Club 37 points and Blackpool 34. Individual scoring was a draw: E. Taylor, of Blackpool, winning six games, L. Jackson, of Heswall, playing for Liverpool Club, also winning six. Fun waxed fast after high tea and the party left at 7 o'clock, having a warm drink for the road before leaving.

We are now looking forward to a visit from Manchester Club on November 11th, and we are putting in a lot of practice so that they shall not repeat the Liverpool Club's beating with the dots. B. V. D.

Talking Book Library

Operation "October"

I have enquired about the possibility of quoting the catalogue number with the books in this column, but learn that it is impossible until the supplementary catalogue is issued. However, the books mentioned herein can be ordered from the library by title.

Two books only achieve release this month, one I call an upholstered short story, and the other is an honest to God historical novel which needs no embroidery. They are "Corporal Tune" and "The Golden Warrior," respectively.

"Corporal Tune," by L. A. G. Strong, read Norman Shelley, is pleasantly read and written, but has not enough subject matter to sustain its length, though it is quite short. The story is too true for fiction, and not strange enough for truth. In short, it is a chap with a belly-ache which brings him to the grave. Perhaps that's a little sketchy, but some passages in the book will appeal to the literary-minded. You have been warned!

"The Golden Warrior," by Hope Munty, read Gordon Little, must be somewhere near an accurate story of Harold the Saxon when G. M. Trevelyan sees fit to subscribe to a foreword; the authoress, a Canadian, puts the story together very deftly. The great pity is that we all know the end before we start reading these historical novels. It's a shame if history does not appeal to you, but that is the complete offering.

I could give an encouraging trailer, but I won't. NELSON.

National Laying Test

Final Report for the 48 weeks, October 11th, 1948 to September 11th, 1949.

Pos'n.	Name	Test Score
1	Young, W. E. ...	1228
2	McIntosh, C. ...	1170
3	Holmes, P. ...	1147
4	Gregory, T. D. ...	1127
5	Chaffin, A. ...	1086
6	Bagwell, P....	1073
7	Webb, W. ...	1044
8	Woodcock, W. J. ...	993
9	Smith, W. Alan ...	970
10	Carpenter, E. H. ...	914
11	Jarvis, A. ...	786
12	Clarke, T. ...	648

Average per bird, 186.97

It's Magic!

The Club Room at Marylebone Road underwent a transformation scene on Monday night, October 17th, in more ways than one. It was the second anniversary of the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians, and its members celebrated it by putting on a fascinating show. At 7.45 the gold and orange curtains were drawn back from the stage, and Madame Zomah, whose late husband had been responsible for the formation of the Section, then introduced the first artist, Alf Wiltshire. With Mr. Mackay, a volunteer from the audience, on his right hand, and Mrs. Wiltshire, his assistant, on the left the magician produced two packs of cards, handing one pack to Mr. Mackay and keeping one himself. They both shuffled their packs, exchanged packs, shuffled again, exchanged packs, and again shuffled. They each chose a card from their respective packs—and lo and behold! each had chosen the same card. It was more surprising because Alf Wiltshire never uses braille cards. Then the magician recalled "a certain radio feature" which had been popular recently, and proceeded to demonstrate his own skill in that direction. Five members of the audience chose cards from a pack distributed among them by Miss Ibbetson, who then returned the remainder to the magician. Miss Ibbetson wrote on a sheet of paper the chosen cards, then joined the magician on the stage and returned the five cards to the pack. He shuffled them. Miss Ibbetson cut them in two and he placed a half in each jacket pocket. Mrs. Wiltshire concentrated, and in silence he drew out from his pockets and correctly named, the five chosen cards.

Another clever card trick, and then the apparent production of a large Union Jack out of three pieces of tissue paper which had been burnt before our eyes. It was completely baffling.

Charles Luker followed. He produced three squares of paper—red, white and black. These he folded and tore from the folds a piece "the size of a sixpence." Well, it was some saxpence, for the remnants turned into a Scotsman's hat.

Then came his attempts at dry-cleaning. Three pieces of silk—green, red and yellow, but all heavily stained with black marks—were shown to the audience. By the strangest coincidence, he had with him

a packet marked "Lux," and into the packet, obviously quite empty, he pushed the three squares. A wave of his wand, a few prods, and out came three squares of silk, but this time perfectly clean.

Trick followed trick, and Charles fully deserved the applause which greeted him at the end of his act.

And then there was a surprise. Just to fill a gap, or so he said, Percy Ashton went on to the stage. He was only a newcomer (so he said), but he made two glasses standing on a book defy the law of gravity by being turned upside down. Some amazing card tricks followed. Into a little black bag with a zip fastener, he put an egg. He crushed the bag, squeezing it in all directions, opened it again, and the bag was empty. "See if you can find it," he asked Miss Scott, who was in the audience. She opened the bag, and there was the egg. Well, once again we were left guessing.

Then the audience sat back and enjoyed two songs from Horace Manning, who is himself a promising recruit to the Section.

And so we came to the last part of the programme. "Smudger" Smith, with easy assurance and a wicked grin, making two glasses apparently hang upside down from a book; then stuffing them in their upright position with pieces of silk, and repeating the trick, only this time gently drawing out the silk from the glasses still upside down. A beautiful piece of showmanship followed—the clearing up of all his props including a magic wand, which apparently enabled him to take a glass of beer from an empty tin. Finally, the manipulation of a piece of green pleated paper into at least fifty designs—from a saucepan to a hula hula skirt. It was very funny, and very clever.

Mr. Mackay spoke for everyone when he said that the show we had seen that evening was first class. He thanked Madame Zomah, Mr. Oscar Oswald, Mr. John Bradbury and Ethelbertine, all of them founder members of the Section, Mr. Fred Willis and Mr. Reg Jamison for their great help since the Section began. Madame Zomah, in reply, said there was little to add except to say how proud they all were of the way in which the St. Dunstaners had done their stuff, not only that evening, but on other occasions, and not always on a platform. They were a credit to their instructors.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Mere words cannot measure the deep regret in the closing of West House, and although it will rise again like the Phoenix, the home from home will be just another memory in the annals of St. Dunstan's.

Whilst it is recognised that reconstruction was necessary, it is felt that the deprivation of West House as a holiday centre could be readjusted materially and financially without losing sight of the needs of Permanent and Convalescent cases.

At this juncture too, I would, through the medium of the REVIEW, pay my personal tribute to Matron Ouseley for her sympathetic understanding, her untiring energies as the liaison between the public and St. Dunstan's; to all V.A.D.s, ever at our service; to Arthur Mason and his band of orderlies (the back room boys); and last, but not least, the Catering and Kitchen staff, who did so much in the back areas, and too, our friend Austin, always at the service of his fellow men.

"Thank you" is but small reward to show the immensity of appreciation.

Yours sincerely,

Brighton.

W. A. MUGGERIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

Sir Ian's remarks in last month's Notes should hearten many new St. Dunstaners. The use of a stick is a science that the young men will find takes a long time to develop. A dead stick is useless, so do not use a rubber ferrule, but a fairly substantial stick with the "bullet" variety of metal ferrule. It should act as a tuning prong.

A blind man without a stick is like a tight-rope walker without a balancing pole. This, however, is no reason why men in their own homes or St. Dunstan's need to habitually carry a stick hitting people's legs, etc.

I always knew when my children were young that one day they would grow up and leave me. So I made a habit of walking independently along the grass verge, etc., when out for our regular evening and Sunday rambles. I remember well the thrill when I went alone for my first long walk, pretending to myself that they were either just over the hedge or a bit further on or behind. Gradually increased the distance, but the reaction to this now is that I feel safer by myself, behind my dog, than I do with an escort. *Castle Cary.* A. J. RADFORD.

Other News

When Princess Elizabeth visited Derby recently, our St. Dunstaner, H. Bridgman, was among the guard of honour which she inspected, and to whom she spoke.

★ ★ ★

T. Attrell has been made one of the Vice-Presidents of Polegate British Legion.

★ ★ ★

Ned Ward and Sean MacNamara, both of Dublin, who will be remembered by men who were with them at Church Stretton, have been decorated with the Emergency Medal.

★ ★ ★

Edward Denny has received the War Medal, which has been awarded to him for services rendered during the recent war. With it was a letter of thanks from Field Marshal J. C. Smuts, then Prime Minister of South Africa.

★ ★ ★

W. E. Bignell, of Edgware, has found a new hobby—rabbit keeping. For the first time in his life he entered his rabbits at a local show and won five prizes, including three firsts.

★ ★ ★

W. Webb, of Great Houghton, has been in his present house and job for 33 years. Can anyone beat this?

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstaners must have a way with leeks. S. Purvis, of Seghill, was 11th in the local Leek Show, from among 67 competitors, and J. Marshall, of Horden, Co. Durham, won two first prizes in local shows.

★ ★ ★

B. Bentley, of Stoke-on-Trent, placed a wreath at the British Legion Memorial Parade on Remembrance Sunday, and H. McCrea laid a wreath on the Belfast Cenotaph during the Armistice ceremony.

★ ★ ★

F. C. W. Westaway has just celebrated the 25th anniversary of his election to the Executive Committee of Yeovil British Legion. He is also on the Benevolent Committee.

★ ★ ★

Four hundred German war-blinded and their dependants are to live in a specially built town near Ansbach, Bavaria, which will be equipped with all the latest devices for helping the sightless, says the *Daily Telegraph*.

Ovingdean Notes

Our activities at Ovingdean seem to have been somewhat overshadowed by the happenings at West House during the past few weeks until on October 22nd the doors there were closed and the last of the resident St. Dunstaners had set off on their journey either to Ovingdean or Blackpool.

Within a short space of time the contractors had arrived at West House and were getting on with the job of alterations. To Ovingdean we welcomed the following 16 permanent residents from West House, whose friends may like to note their address for the next few months: Messrs. F. Alcock, "Daddy" Anderson, H. Day, T. Dee, E. J. Hall, J. Hiscock, A. J. Holland, J. Keville, G. Kilsby, W. Manning, R. Newman, A. Northcott, W. Sankey, W. Sheridan, G. Taylor and T. Tuxford. George Richardson and Joe Howe, also previously West House residents, were already at Ovingdean in Ward 1. With these men came the following V.A.D. Staff: Mrs. Carter, Miss Morgan, Miss Nias; and Orderly Staff: Messrs. Webster, Barrows, Cater, Pain, Greest and one or two other newer staff perhaps not quite so well known to St. Dunstaners. Transferred too was Sister Guinan, Miss Morris, Miss Holland and Mrs. Hutchinson, and to transport department, Ovingdean, Driver L. Austin was added.

We in the Sunny South will be looking forward to hearing occasionally from our friends in the Frozen North—so see what you can do, Blackpool.

Perhaps it is that the summer visitors are no longer taking a day trip to Brighton, but we have not been quite so inundated with visitors to the Centre this month. Amongst those who did come, and one who went away particularly impressed, was Frau Erica Musche, who is a representative of the United Nations Association for the province of Styria, in Austria. We were also pleased to welcome a party of patients from the Queen Victoria Hospital at East Grinstead (which is, of course, well known to several St. Dunstaners). They were extremely interested in the work being done here and hope to send along other groups of patients from time to time.

Our Debating Society has been getting into its stride once more, ready for the

long winter evenings. On October 3rd the subject was, "That there should be a Channel Tunnel," and on the 17th a very lively debate on, "That it is better to be a jack-of-all-trades than master of one." The voting on this occasion went against the motion. Finally there was a very good debate on, "That the good old days were best," but the voting went against the motion.

Before this is in print we shall have held our first dance to which all local St. Dunstaners are to be invited (November 11th) but we should like to take the opportunity of reminding local men that these dances will be held on every Friday in future and we hope that they will come along on these occasions, now that West House is closed. From time to time we shall be arranging other entertainments to which they will be most welcome and, as far as possible, these will be notified to them through the REVIEW.

RESULTS OF OCTOBER KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS

Shooting—36 entries. Winner: J. Mahony.
Runner-up: F. Cunliff.

Darts—14 entries.

Totally Blind—Winner: W. Evans.

Runner-up: F. Cunliff.

Slight Sight—Winner: G. Lofty.

Runner-up: E. Green.

TEST RESULTS

Typing—H. R. Biggs, B. Dunkley, W. Matthews.

Writing—A. Ryan (Australian).

Preliminary—T. Partington.

Advanced—J. Loach.

Ministry of Pensions Cars

Since Bill Harding received the first Ministry of Pensions car in February last, a number of other St. Dunstaners have received theirs. They are Messrs. J. Boyd, Brighton; A. Burnham, Oxford; A. Cavanagh, Salford; E. G. Higgs, Reading; W. Griffiths, Blackburn; L. Faulkner, Northwich; J. A. Peckett, Manchester; T. R. Gaygan, North Harrow; J. H. Banks, Neasden; G. P. Owens, North Harrow; D. Bell, Edinburgh; E. Miller, Leamington Spa; A. Nichols, Portslade; G. L. Treglown, Holyhead; P. Stubbs, Norwich; J. Britton, Pontefract; W. Wrigley, Manchester; W. Lethbridge, Oldham; and E. Higgs, Southfields; H. W. Greatrex, Peacehaven; J. Proctor, Saltdean; H. Bridgman, Derby.

Young St. Dunstaners

News of three of the Loram boys. Jack, the eldest son, is a Warrant Officer in the Navy and is stationed at Malta, has had a second daughter; Bill, in the Marines and stationed at Hong Kong, has just been promoted to the rank of Sergeant; and Stanley, who married a Greek girl, is living in Athens and is doing well as a teacher of English.

Leslie Straughton, of Workington, has entered Sheffield University for a four-year course, to study for a degree in Metallurgy. His firm, the United Steel Company, are so pleased with his work with them that they have given him this splendid opportunity.

Mrs. Vessey, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Sparkes, marched with the British Legion in the Remembrance Day parade at Grimsby. Mrs. Vessey is an ex-V.A.D. nurse. An excellent photograph appeared in the *Grimsby Evening Telegraph*.

Marriages

Joyce Davies, Darwen, on August 5th, to Percy Miller.

Cathie Murphy, Glasgow, on September 30th, to John Brown.

Kathleen Hills, Ramsgate, to Bernard Howlett.

Pen Friends Wanted

Commandant Fawcett has received the following letter from a little girl in South Africa. Would some young St. Dunstaners like to correspond with Katherine?

DEAR SIR,

Colonel Peter Price, who is a friend of mine, told me about St. Dunstan's home.

I am a school girl, aged 10½ years, and I go to the Convent High School in Bulawayo.

We have come from England and settled in Rhodesia nine months ago. My home in England was in Edgware, Middlesex. I would like to make friends with someone from your Home and tell them about Rhodesia, my little brother, Anthony, and my dog, Tommy. I hope to hear from you soon.

My Rhodesian friend, Jill, would also like to correspond with somebody from St. Dunstan's. She is 9 years old.

Yours sincerely,

KATHERINE FISHER.

65 Duncan Road, Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia.

Triplicate News

The ranks of young St. Dunstaners now includes two sets of triplets—and bonny youngsters they are.

Brian, Pamela and Robert Bilcliff, who will be three years old in January, were given a special prize at the Baby Show at a Conservative Fete and Rally held recently at Grays. They were each presented with a silver spoon and pusher by Mrs. Norman Hackforth, wife of Mr. Hackforth—the "Voice" of Twenty Questions.

Sid Doy's three little sons—Thomas, James and Peter, now five months old, won second prize in a recent Baby Show. Their prize was a handsome bath.

Marriage

MINTER—REEVES.—On October 28th, J. R. Minter, of Southall, Middlesex, to Miss Barbara Wynham Reeves, of Brighton.

Silver Weddings

Congratulations upon their anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. W. Nixon, Sheffield, October 1st; Mr. and Mrs. J. Straughton, Workington, November 6th.

Grandfathers

A. ("Smudger") Smith, Wembley; A. C. Cook, Mapperley, Nottingham; C. Firth, Heswall; L. Johns, Totnes; A. E. Hatherley, Kingsbridge; S. Purvis, Seghill; F. C. W. Westaway, Yeovil; H. Raymond, Frimley Green; J. T. Walch, Saltdean.

Great-Grandfathers

A. G. Blyde, Camberwell, for the third time.

W. Sullivan, Passage West, Co. Cork, for the seventh time. Is this a record?

Wanted

Cash Register.—If any St. Dunstan's shopkeeper has a second-hand cash register for sale, would he send all details, including price, to W. E. Bamber, Bamber's Stores, London Road, Hassocks, Sussex.

Field Glasses.—Bob Black, of Chisholme 39 Windsor Road, Thornley Park, Denton, nr. Manchester, wants to buy a pair of field glasses for Mrs. Black. Offers please, to above address.

“ In Memory ”

Private David Potts, 6th Yorkshire Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of D. Potts, of Norton-on-Tees, which occurred in hospital on September 27th.

He served from August 20th, 1914 until March, 1916, and came to St. Dunstan's the following year; he was wounded at Gallipoli.

He was trained as a mat-maker, and although his health was not very good, he carried on at this work for a number of years, but latterly had only managed wool-rug work.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his friends at St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral, at which some sixty people were present.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Potts and her family.

Private Harold S. Potts, Royal Army Medical Corps

With deep regret we record also the death of H. S. Potts, of Ilfracombe.

After his discharge from the Army in February, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1921, where he trained in poultry-keeping.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser.

He leaves a widow and four little girls under sixteen. Our warm sympathy is extended to his widow and her family.

Private Frederick J. Clark, Labour Corps

We record with deep regret the death of F. J. Clark, of Colchester, following a serious operation.

He came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1926, where he trained as a joiner. He had, however, been in failing health for a long time. He was admitted to hospital, but he passed away there on October 19th.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and grown-up family.

Third Air Mechanic William Dodd, Royal Flying Corps

We record with deep regret the death of W. Dodd, who passed away at the Ovingdean Home on October 31st.

He came to us in November, 1947, his sight having failed as a result of his service in the First World War, but he was not able to undertake any training, and he was admitted as a permanent resident of West House. He leaves no relatives.

T. Masego

We have heard with regret from Mrs. Chadwick Bates that a St. Dunstaner of the recent war, T. Masego, of South Africa, died there on June 25th.

Our sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Births

SLEE.—On September 6th, to the wife of J. D. Slee, of Penrith, a son.

STOCKWELL.—On October 18th, to the wife of C. Stockwell, of Withdean, twin daughters—Ann and Jill.

THOMPSON.—On October 31st, to the wife of Leslie Thompson, of Gateshead, twin sons—Bobby and Philip.

VINCENT.—On October 19th, to the wife of J. R. Vincent, of Maidenhead, a daughter.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

FOULKES.—To A. W. Foulkes, of Bletchley, whose wife passed away on October 23rd after a severe illness.

HAWKINS.—To G. H. Hawkins, of Cannock, in the loss of his son, Stanley, on November 14th.

SAMPSON.—To R. E. Sampson, of North Tawton, whose wife died on October 24th. Mrs. Sampson had not been in good health for some time.

SIMON.—To Blodwyn Simon, of Ruthin, whose mother has passed away. Blodwyn lived with her mother.

WILLIAMS.—To J. Williams, of Swansea, whose mother, with whom he lived, died on October 15th.

★ ★ ★

Our sympathy goes out also to Mr. and Mrs. T. Johnson, of Ashton-under-Lyne, who have recently lost a much-loved little grandson. He was three years old and was living with them at the time. Another grandson was born to them in January last.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 367—VOLUME XXXIII

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I AM writing this on the morning of December 9th, having just returned from the grave of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., where Messrs. H. Crabtree and W. Miller, St. Dunstaners, Mr. Dawkins, Lady Fraser and I laid a wreath in remembrance. At the graveside I said, "We lay this wreath in remembrance of our friend, Arthur Pearson, the Founder of St. Dunstan's, whose inspiration and example we try to follow." I was reminded of a pleasant fact by the wording on the cross, namely, that our late Chief's full title was "Sir Arthur Pearson, First Baronet of St. Dunstan's, G.B.E.," a very happy association of the two names so indissolubly linked by history. I noted also the dates, 1866-1921, which means that he died at the early age of fifty-five. It is strange to those of us now in the 50s to remember that we were young men, some of us little more than boys, when we first knew him, and that he, then in the late 40s, seemed to us to be a very senior person, as indeed he was in his authority and prestige. It is a reminder to all of us that although we may not feel old in our middle age, we are probably so regarded by the younger generation. I remember when I was a subaltern of eighteen years of age my company commander, aged thirty-four, seemed to me to be pretty ancient and indeed, we all called him "the Old Man." But perhaps that was a term of art or affection.

The Memorial Service at which Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., read the Lesson and Sergeant Alan Nichols gave the address illustrates an interesting point about our Chapel at the Ovingdean Home, for the Rev. G. L. Treglown, M.B.E., conducted the service and he is a Minister of the Methodist Church. Although our Chapel was dedicated by the Bishop of Chichester under the Church of England, the Rev. J. E. Scott Lidgett, as leader of the Methodist Church, was also associated with the ceremony and gave it his blessing, and we have always tried to make the services broad and undenominational so that they may be acceptable to the widest possible number of worshippers.

Mr. Treglown was a Methodist Chaplain to the Forces who was seriously injured at a battle school in 1944. A stick of gelignite fell near him and realising that those around him would be liable to serious injury, he picked it up, but before he could throw it clear, it exploded. This gallant act won him the M.B.E. and cost him his eyesight and one of his hands. He is, nevertheless, a successful Minister at Newbridge, in Monmouthshire.

Public Relations

Major Basil Curtis, who served in the Second War and has had wide experience in journalistic and publicity work, has joined our staff in place of Mr. J. E. Rose, to whose valuable term of service with St. Dunstan's I made reference in the September REVIEW.

As Public Relations Officer, Major Curtis will be primarily employed in helping to present the work and life of St. Dunstan's in all its aspects to the public, a very important function. I am always gratified and sometimes even astonished at the extraordinary power of the name of St. Dunstan's to get things done for members of our organisation, and outside recognition and regard for this name and what it stands for is a great asset to all the members of our widespread family. Major Curtis's technical skill and knowledge are also available to individual St. Dunstaners, who may write direct to him at 1 South Audley Street and seek his advice about publicity matters affecting their own profession, business or vocation.

Christmas

My wife and I send to all St. Dunstaners and their wives and families, and all friends of St. Dunstan's throughout the world, our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men" is an invocation and a prayer which we may all hope will guide and direct our hearts not only at Christmastide but in the troubled year ahead.

IAN FRASER.

Electric Clocks for the Blind

The N.I.B. announces that it is now able to supply electric clocks with dials adapted for the use of the blind. The clocks are manufactured by Messrs. Aircraft Patents, Ltd., and are as follows:

Wall Model: Octagonal shape, approximately 8in. across, 2in. deep, size of dial, 5in. Price (including purchase tax), 30s. 1d.

Shelf Model (Alarm Clock): Approximately 6in. square, 2in. deep, size of dial, 5in. Price (including purchase tax), 30s. 1d.

The hours are indicated by "cut out" arabic numerals; each five-minute interval by means of a raised rivet. The exterior is cellulose sprayed in pastel shades of brown, blue or green. The clocks are made for use on A.C. voltage of 200-240 v., 50 cycles, but other A.C. voltages are obtainable to special order; the clocks are not, however, suitable for D.C. mains. Orders, with remittances, should specify the model, colour, and voltage of clock required, and should be sent to the National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1. Delivery, 10 to 14 days.

R.A.O.B. News

Readers who are members of the R.A.O.B. will be interested to know that St. Dunstaner James Jackson was exalted to the 4th Degree (R.O.H.) at the Queen Alexandra Lodge (G.L.E.), Brighton, on Sunday, October 30th, 1949. Bro. Jackson was initiated into the Order in Keighley thirty years ago, and is the President of the Brighton and District Province Knights Chapter for 1949.

Sir Arthur Pearson

In Memoriam

On the afternoon of Sunday, December 4th, a Service was held in the Chapel of the Ovingdean Home to the memory of our Founder, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart, G.B.E., who died in 1921. St. Dunstaners in the Brighton area and members of the staff, many of whom had known Sir Arthur, were among the congregation.

The Service was conducted by a St. Dunstaner, the Rev. G. L. Treglown, M.B.E., and Sir Neville Pearson, our President, read the Lesson.

Sgt. Alan Nichols, in a sincere and moving address, paid tribute to the memory of our late Chief, whose life had been devoted to the service of others.

★ ★ ★

On the morning of December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death, Sir Ian Fraser, accompanied by Lady Fraser and Messrs. H. Crabtree and W. Miller, representing St. Dunstaners of two World Wars, visited Sir Arthur's grave in Hampstead Cemetery where they laid a wreath on behalf of war-blinded men and women throughout the Empire.

Placements

A. C. Wheeler, on bearing assembly work, with Newman Industries, Ltd., Bristol; J. Martin, with Bintcliff Turner, Ltd., Sevenoaks, on a screw-slotting machine; K. W. Hedges in a tobacco and confectionery business at Bexley; A. Young, Northampton, as a capstan operator with Hanwell Engineering Co.

London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, January 6th, 1950, at 7.30 p.m., at the Club Rooms. The Agenda will include a report of the year's progress, election of new committee members, and presentation of Balance Sheet. The following four Committee members are due for retirement this year: Messrs. P. Ashton, A. Bradley, J. Fleming, and T. Gaygan. It is hoped that all St. Dunstaners will make a special effort to attend.

On December 5th a dance was held at the Chelsea Town Hall, preceded by a tea party for all those ladies and gentlemen who do so much to help us, and to whom we owe so much. During the dance there was a raffle which realised £15, and this sum has been handed to Mr. Askew for the Deaf-Blind Watch Fund, a cause which Mr. Ottaway has very much at heart. A jolly good time was had by all and our thanks are due to Tiny Fleming for this mighty effort.

On December 3rd, we held the three-mile Walk at Regent's Park, which included a race for novices. The outstanding point of this walk was that Tommy Gaygan beat Archie Brown, who has been unbeaten "champ." since 1925. Tommy, therefore, becomes the new champion and we look forward to the next race, in January, to see if he can hold this proud position. Congratulations, Tommy.

The Club will be closed after the dominoes on December 23rd and will reopen on the 29th inst.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge.

The Bridge Sub-Committee send Christmas greetings to all bridge players and helpers everywhere.

FRANK A. RHODES.

Indoor Section. To St. Dunstaners everywhere.

The following *Dancing Competitions* will be held at the Chelsea Town Hall on January 13th, 1950:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Old Time Waltz | } For St. Dunstaners
only |
| 2. Quickstep | |
| 3. Foxtrot |  | Open event. |

Nos. 1 and 2 competitions are for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial prizes. These will carry a trophy which will be retained for one year.

Open Event—anybody may enter.

Judges: Bob Henderson and Eileen Henshall, World Professional Ballroom Dancing Champions, 1948-9.

Teddy Lawford's Orchestra. Fully licensed bar. Light refreshments. Spot prizes. Admission by ticket, 2s. 6d. Twelve excellent prizes to be won. Come and "have a go."

Our *Darts Team* is going from strength to strength, winning five of our last six matches. On behalf of the London team, I am instructed to challenge all comers. Teams: four, six or eight. Finishing on exact number.

Congratulations to Blodwyn Simon (Liverpool Club) on winning the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize for Whist. Her aggregate score over six weeks was 500 points. On January 5th I shall automatically retire from the existing Committee and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking members of the staff, of all of whom have been most helpful to me and to the Committee as a whole.

TINY FLEMING.

Outdoor Section

On December 3rd we had the biggest field for our walks, and the judges said the standard was excellent. For this three mile event, Mr. W. J. Harris, who seems to be a wizard at handicapping, framed his best ever, getting all men in within a minute. Results are given overleaf. On January 28th comes the five mile, so send along your entries to the Club. It is also proposed to hold a 5 mile Veterans' Walk on this day, so let's have entries for this event soon as well. On March 11th we have the All-England Championships, 7 mile, when the Sir Arthur Pearson Prize will be competed for. This will be a scratch race and Clubs will be notified. And on April 29th, the 10 mile, so we must start thinking about training for the longer distance.

I automatically retire from the Committee on January 6th, so I should like to thank all those kind people who have helped the walking section so much.

T. GAYGAN.

Institute of Magicians

Members of St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians take this opportunity of wishing all readers a merry Christmas, together with prosperity and happiness for 1950.

ALF. WILTSHIRE.

3 Mile Walk and Novices' Handicap December 3rd, 1949

	<i>All.</i>	<i>H'cap.</i> <i>Time</i>	<i>Actual</i> <i>Time</i>	<i>H'cap.</i> <i>Pos.</i>	<i>Srteh.</i> <i>final</i>
P. J. Cryan ...	1.30	26.58	28.28	1st	3
T. Denmead ...	2.40	27.22	30.02		6
A. Brown ...	Scr.	28.2 4/5	28.2 4/5	Fst.	2
				loser	
W. Miller ...	1.30	27.26	28.56		5
W. T. Scott ...	4.30	27.43	32.13		7
A. G. Bradley ...	4.30	27.43 3/5	32.13 2/5		8
T. Gaygan ...	.20	27.03	27.23	2nd	1
C. Williamson ...	1.00	27.38	28.38		4
E. Hailes ...	4.40	29.38	34.18	Fst.	9
				loser	
E. Cookson ...	—	—	—		
M. Burns ...	6.00	28.43	34.43		11
F. Dickerson ...	—	—	—		
V. Kennard ...	—	—	—		
J. Lynch ...	6.30	27.55	34.25	1st	10
C. Stafford ...	4.50	30.5 1/5	34.55 1/5		13
S. V. Tutton ...	6.30	28.25	34.55	2nd	12

Prizewinners

3 mile Handicap	1st	P. J. Cryan
	2nd	T. Gaygan
	Fastest loser	A. Brown
Novices' Race	1st	J. Lynch
	2nd	S. V. Tutton.
	Fastest loser	E. Hailes

Deaf-Blind Watch Fund

This Fund, as my St. Dunstaner friends will know, was started early in 1945 by our old friend Mr. Ottaway, and since that date the magnificent sum of £534 has been subscribed almost entirely by St. Dunstaners.

The object of the Fund is to supply braille watches to the civilian deaf-blind, and it was suggested that I, as Honorary Treasurer, should make periodical appeals for subscriptions through the medium of the REVIEW.

The Fund has to date been able to supply 104 deaf-blind persons with watches through the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League, and I need hardly say what enormous pleasure they have given, as in nearly every case the recipient has been awaiting a watch for many years.

The League tell me that they still have on their lists 129 deaf-blind persons who have no watch, and if any St. Dunstaner would care to send me a small contribution, it will enable the Fund to provide yet more watches to the people on the waiting list.

W. ASKEW.

Wanted

TANDEM wanted. 22in. front wheel, 24in. back wheel. Back wheels, 2ft. apart. Details please to J. Clapson, 59 West Street, Havant, Hants.

London Reunion Dance

There was a surprise awaiting us at the Seymour Hall on Wednesday, December 7th, when we gathered for the London Reunion. Instead of the large familiar Hall with most of its floor space set aside for dancing, we found three-quarters of it filled with small tables, the dancers being catered for at the far end, where the Royal Horse Guards Band (The Blues) were playing. This was a tremendous improvement. It meant that those who preferred talking to dancing could sit chatting at their tables, or move easily about finding their friends; the buffet, which was open all the evening, was in its usual place (so was the bar) and altogether it was a most satisfactory arrangement.

Sir Neville Pearson, our President, who arrived early in the evening with Lady Pearson, welcomed many old friends, including Colonel Eric Ball. Sir Neville spoke of the pleasure it gave St. Dunstaners to meet each other at these Reunions and wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

Sir Ian Fraser, who came with Lady Fraser, paid tribute to the spirit of St. Dunstaners, old and new, and amid applause, thanked Mr. Askew, Matron Pain and those St. Dunstaners who worked on the staff, and, through them, all who helped St. Dunstan's.

There were prizes during the dancing and the winners of these were Horace Manning and Mrs. Brampton, Mr. and Mrs. Worlidge, Dickie Richardson and partner, and Mr. and Mrs. Nichols (Hendon).

By general consent, it was a great night.

National Laying Test, 1949-50

Report for the first period of four weeks,
October 10th to November 6th, 1949

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Test</i>	<i>Score</i>
1	Jarvis, A. ...	...	106
2	Dent, P. ...	...	103
3	Bagwell, P. ...	...	93
4	Gregory, T. ...	...	83
5	Chaffin, A. ...	...	76
6	Holmes, P. ...	...	63
7	Smith, W. Alan ...	...	62
8	Woodcock, W. J. ...	...	54
9	Clarke, T. ...	...	52
10	Taylor, Tom ...	...	20
Average per bird, 12.38			

The Christmas Spirit

In ordinary circumstances we should scarcely encourage the sojourn of youthful vocalists on our doorsteps. But somehow at Christmas it is different—we are different, everything is different. We even look forward to the arrival of the carol singers, for they after all are the heralds of Christmas. We can enjoy their carolling even though it does at times sound like “multiple stomach aches,” but the motive of their song brings joy to our hearts.

It is perhaps many years since some of us hung up our stocking in the hopeful anticipation of what Father Christmas would bring us. That was the golden era of childhood. But many of us still believe in Father Christmas, only we have come to regard him not as a human benefactor but as a kind of spirit—a spirit that fills our hearts with joy and goodwill. Who, in their right senses would want to give up so glorious a tradition?

“This day,” said Shakespeare, “shall change all griefs and worries into love.” Away then with morbidity, melancholy and petty irritations! Let us be children for a day and find time only to think how happy we are, or, better still, how to make others happy. Let the shouts and laughter of children echo from the roof-tops. This is Christmas and let all be happy.

The blue bird is here, everywhere filling the atmosphere with its beautiful harmony. Peace, goodwill and gladness are king for a day, and we become united in one brotherhood.

What jolly good friends Christmas makes us and what excellent companions. “Then heigh-ho the holly”—yes! and the mistletoe too! Raise your glasses and drink a toast to friends both near at hand and far across the seas. And now, St. Dunstaners everywhere, fill up your glasses again please, and drink deeply with me to the following special toast:—

To all kind friends, workers and helpers who have contributed or helped in any way towards making St. Dunstan's the truly happy home, school and club it has always been. May their cup of happiness be ever overflowing. Coupled with the memory of our late Chief, Sir Arthur Pearson, and his successor, Sir Ian Fraser.

God bless 'em all.

T. G. R.

Christmas Parcels from Australia

As a result of the further generosity of the people of Australia, every St. Dunstaner will receive a special food parcel this Christmas. Some 2,500 parcels have been sent to Headquarters through the kindness of Hoyt's Theatres, Ltd., of Australia, and the patrons of 40 theatres included in that group. At Headquarters, every effort is being made for the parcels to be despatched to St. Dunstaners in good time for Christmas.

The donors, whose name and address is on the parcels, would, we feel sure, much appreciate any letters which St. Dunstaners might send them, acknowledging their generous gift.

The Acting High Commissioner for Australia, Mr. N. R. Mighell, C.M.G., who was a visitor to our Training Centre some months ago, came to Headquarters on the morning of December 14th, where, with Sir Ian Fraser, he took part in a handing-over ceremony. At the Ovingdean Training Centre later the same day, that old friend of St. Dunstan's, Max Miller, took part in a similar ceremony at the breaking-up festivities.

Thank you, Australia.

Thirty Years Ago

From the “St. Dunstan's Review,” December, 1919:—

“On Thursday, November 13th, His Highness, the Gaekwar of Baroda, accompanied by Mr. C. Rigg, paid a visit to St. Dunstan's. The Gaekwar was shown over every department, where he displayed the keenest interest in everything he saw.”

“On Wednesday, November 19th, the Outer Lounge was full to overflowing after lunch to hear Dame Melba, who paid us a visit and sang for half an hour. Owing to the fact that her accompanist had not turned up she began by singing a couple of Italian songs to her own accompaniment. The accompanist having arrived by this time, she gave the men the choice of ‘Bonny Mary of Argyle’ or Tosti's ‘Goodbye.’ The former was chosen and cheered to the echo. Then she asked, ‘What would you like now?’ The votes in favour of ‘Coming through the Rye’ and ‘Goodbye’ being equal, she gave them both.”

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIR,

Concerning badges for guide dogs. I should think that the harness the dog has to wear when working with a blind person is quite enough to tell any sighted person that the dog has some special work to do. If a guide dog owner thinks he would be safer on the road if onlookers knew he was blind, then I should say that he or she should wear some distinguishing mark on their person. I am told that I have every appearance of being sighted. Before becoming a guide dog owner, I often used to take walks in Cardiff, where the main streets are rather crowded with pedestrians. A human guide always accompanied me. Pedestrians coming towards me, thinking I was sighted, expected me to go half-way when we passed each other. The result was that at time my right side was continually coming into a collision with someone; at times a parcel has been knocked clean out of my hands. I was advised to wear dark glasses. It was quite a time before I could take to this idea, but I felt that I had a duty to my guide, because I was continually being pulled to the left. Eventually I wore the glasses and found that I could get along much better when meeting people rushing for buses, etc. My dog takes me into the busy streets of Cardiff now, but I still wear the dark glasses.

Yours sincerely,
Cardiff. G. M. JORDAN.

DEAR SIR,

Re guide dogs. I suggest a small plate to hang just below the collar with swivel to detach when not in service. The words—Blind Person—could be added to the plate.

Yours sincerely,
Nottingham. A. W. BALLARD.

DEAR SIR,

Concerning the advisability of guide dogs carrying or wearing something to identify themselves, they could be taught to carry and use white sticks. I know this can be done as I am the Patron Saint of all dogs.

Yours sincerely,
In Ceolis. "SAN ROCCO."

Musical

B. W. R. Glover, of Portsmouth, has an engagement to play his accordion for eight minutes twice nightly at the Coliseum,

Other News

That good sportsman, Arthur Morgan, of York, has organised a Blind Tandem Cycling Club and is raising funds to buy machines for the young blind of York.

Ernie Russell, of Leeds, is another who has been helping disabled friends. At his suggestion, a commentator goes along with the blind sportsmen at Leeds football matches and other events and gives a running commentary in their own enclosure.

Bill Harding has been elected a vice-president of Stoke Newington Poultry Club.

Smokey Britton's dog has been made an honorary member of the Canine Defence League's "Lucky Dog Club."

Gwen Obern and Beryl Sleigh were IN TOWN TONIGHT on Saturday, December 3rd. They gave a delightful duet, "We'll gather lilacs."

J. Wood, of Grange-over-Sands, won two first prizes, two seconds and a medal for his flowers this year.

T. W. Salter, our telephonist at the Head Office of Trust Houses for twenty-six years, had a column to himself in the October magazine of the company.

J. Mitchell, of Edinburgh, is kept very busy with his Seaforth activities. He organises bus trips for them and is now engaged on organising one for the spring, when they go to the north of Scotland.

Our deaf St. Dunstaner, R. J. Williams, of Alresford, has become the owner of Antefaa Kannu, a pure-bred Basenji puppy, already obedience-trained. Basenjies have no bark but are excellent companions.

Jack Chappell, one of our new war poultry-farmers, and his wife, of Epping, recently gained a certificate "Very Highly Commended" for their 14-month old Bull-Mastiff bitch, "Bryony of Thellian," in the Southern Bull-Mastiff Society and Training Club's Championship Show in London. They plan to breed from her.

W. Shayler and J. C. Owen have both been elected to the executive committee of the British Legion, Derby House Branch, Liverpool.

Blackpool Notes

By the time these notes reach the homes of St. Dunstaners in many parts of the world, Christmas will be upon us. From the Blackpool Home dining table, where men and staff will be gathered together for this annual feast, we shall send greetings to all who are in any way connected with St. Dunstan's—from our ever busy Chairman and Lady Fraser to the newest recruit to our ranks of St. Dunstaners or staff.

November with its chilly winds has not been too unkind, and although we have not been able to go far afield we have managed to get out a little.

On the 6th—Remembrance Day—a small part, consisting of Messrs. D. Cockerill, with Sister Chaddock, C. Thompson and F. Bush, with Sister Marshall, and E. Horan with Matron, joined representatives of many other organisations in the parade to the Cenotaph, where E. Horan placed the wreath. We were particularly proud of our wreath this year as it was, for the first time since before the war, made in the shape of our badge, and was very beautiful.

On Friday, the 11th—which we observed as our own Armistice Day—C. Thompson accompanied Matron to the four local cemeteries to place Crosses of Remembrance on the graves of St. Dunstaners. The day started by paying tribute to those who have left us—we held a short service in the lounge, which was taken by Rev. D. Allen (who has now left Holy Trinity Church to become Rector of Mucklefield).

That day we were happy to have the members of the Manchester Club with us, who, having lunched well—and wisely—at the Bourne Hotel, joined us in making merry. Most of the local St. Dunstaners were able to come along too for a domino tournament, tea and jollifications. "Musical knees" was great fun, the look of joyous anticipation on the faces of the troops changing to almost a look of pain when a two-ton Tessie landed instead of a fairy queen. The party broke up—to the strains of Nellie Dean. We shall look forward to many more of these Club visits, and hope some day to have Liverpool, Manchester and Blackpool all together.

In the evening small parties went to various ex-Servicemen's dinners. The day was voted by all to be a huge success.

M. T. C.

Grandfathers—To the Blackpool Lounge: Grandfather Clock.

Talking Book Library

November's Noggin

Yes, I believe the three books released this month are quite stimulating. Adventure is typified by "Kidnapped," romance and adventure by "No Way Home," and matter of fact biography by "The Life Story."

"Kidnapped," by R. L. Stevenson, read James Gray, is a superbly told yarn of the adventure of David Balfour on the sea and in the highlands with his classical friend, Alan Breck. But who amongst us does not know the story and the inimitable style of this prince of story-tellers? The young in heart will always enjoy this for it is a boy's book, yet still an adult classic.

"No Way Home," by George Preedy, read Arthur Bush, is a period piece of romance, somewhat tarnished, and adventure. The book opens rather mysteriously in the West German sector after the Napoleonic wars, drifts to Sicily, and concludes stickily but satisfactorily in London. One husband, one lover and one Italian prince all interested in one wife make exciting reading.

"Life Story," by Phyllis Bentley, read Jean Metcalfe, is the history of the Tyas family, Yorkshire mill owners, reputedly written by a grandson and concerning mainly a grandmother—hence the lady reader. Quite a number of odd characters skip through the pages, and the ninety or so years covered by the narrative show the gradual change of outlook from the 19th to mid-20th century ways of life. Industrial unrest does not figure largely in this tale but there are some reminders that the mill hands do exist in the background.

I can safely say all three are "U" certificate material, i.e., nothing shocking or requiring censorship is contained in the consignment.

Colossal Christmas and stupendous '50 to all who fail to break any records. Farewell to the old Implacable! "NELSON."

H.M.S. Pinafore

Newquay (Cornwall) Council, wishing to repair some of the boats on their children's boating lake, applied to the Board of Trade for a licence to use 16 cubic feet of timber for the purpose.

The Board of Trade has returned their application and told them it should have been sent to the Admiralty.

—Daily Telegraph.

A Year in One Man's Life

(The author of this article—Harold Eric Dixon—died on June 24th at our Blackpool Home after great suffering. It is his own story of the experiences which led to his blindness and general breakdown, and we publish it since it was his wish, and the wish of his wife.)

I enlisted on October 16th, 1939, and was passed fit. On May 14th, 1940, I proceeded overseas with the B.E.F. in France. I was taken prisoner on June 8th, 1940, and made my escape one week later. In the company of three other members of my unit, I wandered for about a fortnight, depending on the good nature of French farmers to give us food.

On the last day of June, I was given shelter by an American and until May 30th, 1941, still in company of my three friends, I was virtually a prisoner in one house, not being able to go out at all except occasionally in the night time for fresh air and exercise. During this time food was limited, my staple diet being potatoes. German patrols paid many visits to the house, and I was forced to go into hiding in either the roof or well-camouflaged cellars, being forced to remain in complete darkness and great discomfort.

On May 30th the four of us were taken to Le Havre, 16 miles distant, and given refuge in a waterside cafe whose patrons were almost exclusively German troops. After 14 days spent in one room we were given money, civilian clothes and false identity cards and, in company of two Frenchmen, proceeded by rail to Paris. The six of us made our way to a cafe, when the two Frenchmen told us they would go to the railway station to purchase railway tickets for the following day's proposed journey to Poitiers, this town being close to the demarcation line separating the Occupied and the then Unoccupied Zones. That was all we saw of them and approximately one thousand francs which had been collected in Le Havre. When it was realised we were alone we decided to try and contact a certain M. Charlon, who was the father-in-law of the American with whom we had stayed during the winter. The hour was then 10 o'clock in the evening — curfew being midnight. We found the aforesaid M. Charlon at ten minutes to midnight. At this point I must mention that I was the only one who had any knowledge of the French language, and had to do all the talking necessary.

The following day we decided to make our own way to Poitiers; fortunately friends of M. Charlon had given us more money. On arrival we made our way to a frontier village and, awaiting darkness, hid ourselves in the woods. After many efforts to cross into Unoccupied France, all of which were frustrated by enemy patrols and police dogs, daylight came and we were forced to get out of a very unhealthy spot. We then made our way back to Poitiers and took a train back again to Paris, and from Paris we went back to Le Havre. After staying at the cafe from which we had originally started, once more we made our way to Paris, this time being escorted by another Frenchman, who turned out to be more helpful than his predecessors. From Paris we made our way to Southern France, still in the occupied zone.

At this point the Frenchman left us, and once more we were alone. We entered a small cafe, and after bluffing the proprietor, found that we were only a matter of half a mile from the border. Apparently he was in the habit of helping young Frenchmen to escape, and told us we were to stay in the cafe until 10 o'clock that night, when a woman whose description he gave me would enter the cafe. On her departure we were to follow at intervals of fifty yards. This we did, and after much crawling and waiting we found we had crossed the frontier. By morning we reached a village from where we took a bus to the town of Pau. Seeing Lloyds' Foreign Bank in the main street I entered and found a cashier who was English. He gave me the address of a French woman who would help us. We stayed at this woman's house four days, and were told that the only way of escape was to cross the Pyrenees into Spain. It was arranged that we should go to a friend of hers at a town called Beziers. This we did and, after a few days' rest, were given instructions where to cross the Spanish frontier. We made a hazardous journey by foot and crossed the mountains and sought food and shelter from the Spaniards, eventually arriving in Barcelona, some hundred kilometres distant. There we were looked after by the consulate, being sent to the Embassy in Madrid a few days later. From Madrid we were escorted by Spanish civilian police as far as Gibraltar.

Twelve momentous months. I alone had knowledge of the languages; I alone was responsible for the safety of our party.

Memories

A few short months ago I tackled the longest journey I had ever taken via New York, Detroit, Windsor, Toronto, Winnipeg to Northern Alberta and back to New York, including an unexpected detour to Erie and Warren, Pennsylvania, and what stands out most vividly in my mind?

The bustling crowds on the American trains, but also the courteous, unobtrusive help one gets. Memories of the coloured attendant who, looking after me on my first railway trip alone—800 miles from New York to Detroit—whispered to a Boston lady, "Ma'am, would you please help the English lady. She don't see too well, no-how Ma'am, that she don't." The chef who thoughtfully cut up my meat and brewed a pot of English tea, without any prior request on my part.

Listening to the sponsored radio and, at first, being silently indignant when the announcer said something against the British, and then realising that these radio folk are just as outspoken about the Americans, or the Canadians, or the Russians, or any other race of people whose views do not coincide with their own.

Visiting the stores and hearing, with a sense of surprise, an American shop clerk saying, "Can I help you?" and realising just why maybe the American sales policy gets results.

A long train journey to northern Alberta and meeting and knowing the friendly, hospitable people who are our kinsfolk. Discussing with them the problems of the dollar and sterling currency, both of us wondered just why and wherefore. Walking on the old trail and hearing that nearby many a bloody battle was fought between the Indians and the white men, and being told, "If it had not been for the greed of the white man, there need never have been a drop of blood spilled." Sitting at a meal one day and learning later that the guest had been an Indian neighbour who was "better than any vet. and always comes along if he can help you." Getting accustomed to the Canadian radio programmes and realising that Medicine Hat is really a place and not a theatre joke.

Loving the way the Canadian girls on the prairies all help when they go visiting, with memories so vivid of a Sunday afternoon and a family gathering. One girl peeling potatoes, another preparing

the beans, another laying the big round family table, and someone else talking about the big can of ice cream one of the "kids" had made. With the aid of an ice-box or refrigerator? No! Just an old-fashioned cumbersome ice-cream maker. No ice available but—just frozen snow from the other side of the "yard." But the nicest ice-cream I ever tasted.

Back now many thousands of miles and travelling along the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania. Listening to my cousin describing the tall wooded slopes on either side of the valley road along which we were travelling and learning that this river eventually flows into the Mississippi and flows out into the Gulf of Mexico. Hearing that this pleasant wooded town, so reminiscent in my imagination to some of the places in our own New Forest—was once known to house more millionaires than any other town in the United States, but, as Jimmie said: "No matter if your neighbour is a millionaire or a mail-man, we are all Bill or Jack to each other." Yes, happy memories of people I met.

One of the most vivid things though, is connected with the "white stick." I was very surprised both in U.S.A. and Canada to find how many blind people, be they "veterans" or civilians—carry a white stick. The public, by means of friendly, sincere radio talks—one such was given by one of our own boys—look out for a person, holding such a cane, standing by the "side-walk."

It was good to be in New York again, on a humid night, with the kindly train hostess with me until my hostesses arrived.

And back in England, what now? Wondering why so many people have harsh voices, and why the service is so bad in the trains. Wondering why the shop girls are always so curt in tone and then recalling that maybe they just react that way to customers who are sharp-toned too. Finding it not so difficult after all to get along with my shoppings, and even if goods are in short supply, you usually get what you want. I have proved to myself just what? Oh, just that any person, even if he can't "see too well no-how," or even if he cannot see at all, can enjoy a trip such as I have taken, arrange it for himself, and get a whole lot of enjoyment with very little money in his pocket. MAUREEN LEES.

Ovingdean Notes

The days and weeks go swiftly by and suddenly we find that winter is well and truly with us and the Autumn Term is rapidly coming to an end. Occasionally, we have had a sunny day to remind us that it can be really lovely by the sea—even at this time of the year—but for the most part those of us who have ventured out have had to struggle along against the heavy and gusty rains.

During November we have welcomed just a few of the holiday and convalescent men and we are now beginning our preparations for the End of Term entertainments and for Christmastide. This year for the first time since the end of war, we shall be open at Christmas and we are looking forward to receiving a record crowd.

Commandant, Matron, Staff and Trainees would like to wish a very happy Christmas to all Staff and Trainees and our other friends who have left Ovingdean, and we send our sincere greeting for the New Year.

In the last issue of the REVIEW, you will recall we mentioned that the Friday night dances were being held again and we hoped many local St. Dunstaners would come along. A number have joined us, in spite of the rather unfavourable weather, but the response has not been as large as we had hoped. We are looking forward to a bigger attendance as it becomes generally known that the dances are being held. Do come along—we assure you it really is worth the effort of trudging up the garden path!

During the month we have had two very enjoyable entertainments provided for us in Brighton. The first was a delightful evening, arranged by the Executors of the Will of the late Mrs. M. Pittman, who was well known to many of our older St. Dunstaners. This entertainment is to be an annual affair; the first was held on November 24th. After an excellent dinner at the Regent Restaurant the party, which included local St. Dunstaners, went to the Brighton Hippodrome where, amongst other artistes, they were entertained by Frankie Howerd. The second occasion was the Annual Dinner and Dance given by the Brighton & Hove Grocers' Association, held on November 29th. This is an event always eagerly anticipated and this year it

was held at the Grand Hotel and even excelled the usual high standard set by the Grocers when they entertain St. Dunstaners. The dinner was followed by speeches from the President of the Grocers' Association and our Commandant, who thanked the Association on behalf of St. Dunstan's.

At Ovingdean itself we have had some very interesting lectures and debates. On November 10th, Mr. Dyson of the Brighton Corporation, gave a talk on Brighton's Parks and Gardens, and on the 30th we were again able to welcome Colonel G. I. Davys, who is now regarded by the men as an old friend. His talks are always most popular and on this occasion he spoke on "Recent advances in certain branches of Science."

The Debating Society have been very busy. The first one held was most amusing—"That men are selfish and conceited." It was all carried on in the best of humour and finally the motion was carried. For the second, the boys of the Christ's Hospital School, Horsham, were our opponents and the motion, "That the individual rather than the State is the answer to man's problems," was carried. Some very interesting points were put forward in the discussion. The third and last debate of the month, "That there should be an international language and currency," was again carried.

Shooting and Darts K/O Competitions

Shooting: 30 entries.

Winner: T. Baker (Australian).

Runner-up: E. Bullen (Australian).

Darts: T.B. 10 entries.

Winner: G. Killingbeck.

Runner-up: W. Evans.

S.S. 18 entries.

Winner: E. Green.

Runner-up: D. Wesley.

Test Results

The following are Test Results for the month of November:

Typing—P. Crynan, J. Kay, H. Jastrzynski.

Preliminary—D. Alexopoulos (Greek).

Writing—M. Potts.

Advanced—W. Phillips.

In Parliament

In the House of Commons on December 6th, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the high prices of Christmas cards and the disparity in the prices charged, he would reduce the purchase tax on them, bearing in mind the burden the tax imposes upon old people who wish to keep contact with their friends.

In a written reply, the Chancellor said: At present three rates of purchase tax apply to Christmas cards. I propose to reduce this to two with effect from January 2nd. The plainest ones will qualify for the 33½ per cent. rate. For the more elaborate ones I consider that 100 per cent. is the appropriate charge.

On the same day the Secretary of State for War was asked by Mr. Albu whether he would issue instructions that identical twins, as far as possible, are to be allowed to serve together during their period of National Service. Mr. Shinwell said that this was being done already. Unavoidable exceptions arose when twins were of different medical categories and could not be initially allotted to the same corps, or when the call-up of one was deferred. In such cases every endeavour was made, when twins wished to serve together, to post them to the same unit as early as possible during their whole-time service.

Sir Ian Fraser: Can the Minister give an assurance that twins will be promoted to corporal and sergeant at the same time? (laughter).

Handicrafts Success

On Friday and Saturday, November 18th and 19th, the East Sussex Association for the Care of Cripples held a Handicraft Exhibition in the Corn Exchange, Brighton, at which St. Dunstan's hired a stall.

In the competitions we entered in six classes, rugs, weaving, baskets, woodwork, leatherwork and plastics, securing first class awards in both woodwork and plastics. The woodwork award also carries a trophy, which we now hold at Ovingdean.

These awards are really outstanding in view of the fact that the competition was open to both fit and disabled.

Of the items concerned, the clock (plastic section) was made by Ted Bullen, of Australia, and the dumb waiter (woodwork section) by Bert Duxbury, but in all cases items were entered as from St. Dunstan's.

Marriage

HOWES—SLADE.—On November 12th, F. Howes, of Dartford, to Miss Hazel Slade.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. E. Swayne, S.E.25, November 24th; Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Piper, Watford, December 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. J. Collinson, Blandford, December 15th; Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Crafter, Battersea, December 25th. Congratulations.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Richardson, of Skegness, celebrated their anniversary in September, 1948—we have only just heard this.

Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Dance, of Bishops Stortford, will have been married thirty-eight years on Christmas Eve.

Young St. Dunstaners

Alfred Jennings (Heaton, Bradford), has passed his examinations to become a policeman.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Owen, of Rhos-on-Sea, is now a sister in a London hospital.

Joyce Watson, Manor Park, won much praise by her pianoforte performance at a recital at the Town Hall recently.

Marriages

Stanley Hicks, Palmers Green, to Edna Busbridge.

Doris Iddiols, Willesden, to Raymond Score, on October 8th.

Dr. Henry Webb

St. Dunstaners who have been at Ovingdean as trainees, or who have been for a time in Ward 1 there, will learn with deep regret of the sudden death of Dr. Webb, Medical Officer at Ovingdean.

Dr. Webb was admitted suddenly to hospital on December 8th and died there the following day. The funeral service was held at Rottingdean Village Church and at the Downs Crematorium on December 14th. A number of St. Dunstaners and Staff from Ovingdean attended.

Although Dr. Webb had only been with St. Dunstan's for a comparatively short time he will be greatly missed by men and staff at Ovingdean, where he had quickly established himself as a friend to so many. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

“ In Memory ”

Company Sergeant Major Alfred Kimber, *Royal Marine Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Kimber, of Medstead. He had served with the Royal Marines prior to the 1914-1918 war and was injured in 1915.

He came to us in 1928 and trained as a poultry-keeper, but for a number of years now he has been in failing health and he had undergone several serious operations from which he had never fully recovered. He died in hospital in November 25th and was cremated at St. John's, Woking, on November 19th. A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was among the flowers.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Pioneer Ernest Henry Holland, *Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of E. H. Holland, of Cheltenham.

He, too, served in the 1914-1918 war, but he did not come to us until 1948, and his ill-health then prevented him undertaking any training. He passed away quite suddenly on November 11th.

He was a fine character and deeply respected by his fellow-citizens in Cheltenham, and there were many floral tributes at the funeral, among them a wreath from Sir Ian and his St. Dunstan's friends.

He leaves a large family, to whom we extend our deep sympathy, and in particular to Miss Phyllis Holland, who had cared for her father since the death of Mrs. Holland some years ago. Another daughter, Mrs. R. E. Gale, lives near our war-time Home at Melplash and worked at St. Dunstan's when West House was evacuated.

Private Cornelius Roddy, *2nd Border Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of C. Roddy, of New Washington, Co. Durham.

He served from August 8th, 1914, until June, 1916, and was wounded at Albert. He came to us the following November, but was never able to take up serious training owing to his poor health. He had been ill for a considerable time before his death which occurred at his home. Shortly before, he had expressed a wish to go to Brighton and we were trying to arrange this journey for him.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his sister, who had cared for him so devotedly for so long.

A wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's comrades was among the flowers.

W. H. Smith, *2nd Bn. Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the deaths of four of our Australians. W. H. Smith, of Bentleigh, Victoria, came to us after being wounded in 1916 and trained as a poultry-farmer. He returned to Australia and carried on with this, but for some time now we have had no news of him.

Private L. Fry, *51st Australian Imperial Forces*

L. Fry, of Ormond, Victoria, was wounded on the Somme in July, 1918, and came to us in October of that year. He trained as a boot repairer and netter until June, 1919, when he returned home. Of late years he had done only light work but news of his death came as a shock for as recently as March of this year his English wife was over here on holiday.

Our deep sympathy goes out to her and to her sons.

H. Ludeman

We have heard also from Mr. McConnell of the death of a St. Dunstaner of the recent war, H. Ludeman, of Thornbury, Victoria, of whom, however, we have no details.

Private H. J. Kellogg, *27th Australian Imperial Forces*

This Australian came to us in February, 1917, having been wounded on the Somme the previous year, and he trained as a boot repairer until February, 1918. Since he returned to Australia, however, we had received little news of him.

Births

BOULTER.—On October 30th, to the wife of E. T. Boulter, of Le Vesinet, France, a son—Roger Stephen.

COOK.—On October 10th, to the wife of L. W. Cook, of Sutton, a daughter—Jean Mary.

COOKE.—On November 23rd, to the wife of C. Cooke, of Kingston, a daughter—Gillian.

LYDON.—On November 8th, to the wife of T. Lydon, of Hertford, a daughter—Diana Clare.

Death

SOUTHEN.—Our deep sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. G. Southen, of Folkestone, who lost their son on November 4th.

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

How to Register your Vote

WE all know now that the General Election will be held on February 23rd, and as that day draws nearer, many St. Dunstaners will no doubt be thinking about the best method of recording their votes.

The best advice I can offer is to go along to the Polling Station yourself if you possibly can, for it is always an interesting experience and the almost unprecedented excitement which the forthcoming election is bound to create will be stirring.

As many of you are already aware, under the Blind Voters Act a blind person may either:

(a) Take to the polling booth a companion, who may be any other person having a vote in the constituency or ward, or his or her father, mother, wife or husband, brother or sister, son or daughter, such persons being 21 years of age, to mark the ballot paper;

or

(b) Ask the Presiding Officer to mark the ballot paper in the presence of representatives of the candidates, as was the case before the law came into force in 1934.

The provision whereby a blind person may take a specified relative or friend to mark the paper resulted from a Bill which I piloted through Parliament in 1933, in order to provide blind people with the greatest degree of secrecy in voting that was possible in their case, and if he wishes to use this method, he must tell the presiding officer that he is blind and that he has brought a companion to mark his paper. The companion must then fill in and sign a simple declaration which will be given to him by the presiding officer. This declaration merely states whom the companion is and that he will keep the knowledge of the vote secret.

This, then, is the method of recording your vote if you are able personally to attend the polling station. But if this should prove impossible for any reason, a blind person can now apply to be placed on the Absent Voters List for an indefinite period, and may vote by post. This concession is provided for under the Representation of the People Act, Section 8 (1) (c) for a voter who "is unable or likely to be unable, by reason either of blindness or other physical incapacity, to go in person to the Polling Station, or if able to go, to vote unaided."

Application to be placed on the Absent Voters List must be made on Form RPF 7, and there is a doctor's certificate included which has to be completed, and it is important

to remember, too, that this form must be returned before the election begins, i.e., before February 3rd. The form can be obtained from the Electoral Registration Officer or any local political agent.

The same facility is available for those who cannot vote in person because of occupation, service or employment, or because he no longer lives in the area where he is registered. In this case, a similar form, but minus the doctor's certificate, is needed, and this can also be obtained from the electoral registration authority for the voter's constituency.

Although I still recommend all blind men and women to get to the polling station if they can, this new regulation does enable you to record your own vote from your own home if you so desire.

IAN FRASER.

St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles

Thirty-one St. Dunstaners have so far responded to the invitation in the November REVIEW to Old Contemptibles to send in their names. They are Messrs. W. Appleby, J. Ashmore, S. E. Backhouse, A. W. Ballard, J. Battsland, C. E. Bolton, E. Brewer, F. J. Brown (Birmingham), Arthur Brown (Exeter), A. Cook (Brighton), G. T. Dennis, John Edwards (N.W.1), M. Goundrill, G. Hadfield, H. E. Hill, R. Z. Hurrell, A. Keep, J. W. Mahony, J. McAndrew, C. McCairn (enlisted as J. Martin as he was under age), G. E. Perry, G. B. Priest, G. H. Richards (Manchester), A. W. Roberts (Chester), J. B. Selby, W. Shayler, W. Stedman, C. F. Spiers, H. Taylor (Bournemouth), G. W. Wardle and W. Woodrow.

All these St. Dunstaners landed in France between August 4th and November 23rd, 1914. W. Woodrow had served regularly since 1901 before he was taken prisoner at Mons. R. Chaplin had served since 1910 when war broke out, but he was not sent to France until December, 1915.

C. E. Bolton landed in France on August 23rd and was blinded on the 27th, which must surely make him the first St. Dunstaner to lose his sight, although he did not come to us until the following April. The claim to be the first admitted is, we think, now held by J. B. Selby, who was one of the first four St. Dunstaners, being admitted on February 15th, 1915. J. W. Kerr, of Widnes, was, we believe, another.

Correction

The price of the Shelf Model Electric Alarm Clock, mentioned last month, is 30s. 10d., and not 30s. 1d. The wall model is 30s. 1d.

From All Quarters

A. Hamlett, of Winsford, is making a great success of tobacco growing. He has grown and cured 15½ pounds in his allotment this year. It is good stuff with a pleasant smell.

★ ★ ★

Alan Nichols is writing a book and he wants to include in it some personal stories of Sir Arthur Pearson, as told by St. Dunstaners. He therefore invites St. Dunstaners to send in their own stories of Sir Arthur, for which he will give prizes of five guineas, three guineas, and two guineas, with a fee of two guineas for any other published in the book. Stories should be sent to him at Rose Bungalow, 97 Mile Oak Road, Portslade.

★ ★ ★

There was a fire at the house of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Holland, of Heswall, just before Christmas, but fortunately it was confined to one room. An electric fire had fallen over and the hearth and surrounding floorboards were set alight. The Leading Fireman said that it was "sheer good luck" that the fire had not spread; it was due to the fact that there were no draughts in the room.

★ ★ ★

Bill Harding and his wife have four lovely thoroughbred wire-haired fox terrier puppies (dogs) which they would sell to St. Dunstaners at a special price.

★ ★ ★

W. Carthy, of Rainworth, has been elected Chairman of Rainworth Branch of the British Legion and Chairman of the Old People's Association. He collected £450 in ten months, which gave a gift of £2 each to local old age pensioners at Christmas.

★ ★ ★

Bill Moon, ex-R.A.F., has been granted the Air Efficiency Award.

London Club Notes

On January 6th the London Club held its Annual General Meeting, Mr. W. G. Askew presiding. The Committee for the ensuing year was elected as follows: Messrs. P. Ashton (Chairman), M. Burns, F. Fleming, T. Gaygan, J. Muir, F. Rhodes and A. Wiltshire. The year's report and statement of accounts were favourably received. In the discussion that followed, members were asked to let the committee have their suggestions for a summer sports day for this year. It was also suggested that occasional talks should be arranged on current affairs, preferably for Friday evenings. This was agreed upon and we do hope that fellows will support these talks, which will be announced in the REVIEW. The wish was also expressed that new St. Dunstaners should come to the Club, and the committee expressed its willingness to do all in its power to cater for their entertainment. The Club now looks forward to another year of entertainment and sport.

The Club is open on Monday (Institute of Magicians), Tuesday (Whist Drive). It is closed on Wednesday. Thursday (Dominoes), Friday is a free night, and Saturday is Bridge. A dart board is also provided and we are looking forward to some important Dart Matches in the forthcoming year.

Founder's Day Dance, Chelsea Town Hall,
March 24th.

7 Mile Walk, Regent's Park, March 11th.

10 Mile Walk in April.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Club was held at Headquarters on Saturday, December 10th, and was presided over by Colonel Ball, who managed to keep us from going too far astray. The report of the last meeting was read and carried, followed by the election of new officers. They were as follows: Jock Muir (Captain), S. Webster (Treasurer), and Drummer Downs (Flying Column). All business was transacted in record time and a vote of appreciation was given to Miss Ibbetson and Mr. Willis for their generous help to the Club during the past year.

Saturday, December 17th, found us collected for our Christmas party. We managed to fill eleven tables, the tables not

being the only things that were filled as, thanks to Miss Ibbetson, a very delightful tea was provided. The sensation of the afternoon, however, was the sudden appearance of Terry Roden among the leaders, and for a time he looked like winning, but the Quarter Bloke seemed to have plenty in hand and drew away comfortably, winning by two lengths, Bruce Ingrey following up third. Mrs. Askew kindly presented the prizes. This rounded off a very happy and enjoyable afternoon.

J. M.

Epitaph

Here I lie with my two daughters
Dead from drinking the Cheltenham waters.
If I had stuck to Epsom Salts
I shouldn't be lying in these damp vaults.

Bridge at Blackpool

On the evening of December 30th, Mr. Jolly arranged for a team of St. Dunstaners to visit the Blackpool Bridge Club, where a most enjoyable evening was spent. A match of twenty-four boards was played, resulting in a win, by 800 points, by the St. Dunstan's team, the players being Messrs. F. King, J. Walch, W. Collins and G. Jolly.

Liverpool Club

The Liverpool Club held its Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10th, at its headquarters, the Sefton Hall, when members with their wives and families came along in the real festive mood. Our guest of honour was Matron B. Vaughan-Davies, accompanied by a surprise visitor who turned out to be none other than our good friend, Miss Wilson.

The party commenced with an excellent tea, which was immediately followed by a magnificent entertainment, given by Mr. J. C. Reason, a well-known pianist on the Merseyside, and his friends. This was indeed a grand start to our evening. A happy little ceremony was then enacted when Matron and Miss Wilson were both presented with a Christmas gift from the Club members by Joan Brougham and Dorothy Cooper. Both were extremely gratified and deeply touched by these gifts.

Matron was then asked to act as Mrs. Santa Claus by distributing gifts to the children, much to the youngsters' delight. Dancing and games was not the order of

the evening, and much fun was caused with some of the ladies, blindfolded, feeding their partners with jelly, the successful pair being T. Kinder and Mrs. Owen. Great amusement was also had with the Baby Bottle Sucking Competition, when A. Wright proved himself to be the Champion Sucker on the Merseyside. The children also had their fun with Musical Bumps and pinning the tail on the tail-less pig, these events being won by May Barton and Leslie Brougham.

A most successful evening came to a close with everyone joining hands for "Auld Lang Syne."

Note.—Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Saturday, January 14th, with further meetings on each successive fortnight.

T. M.

Correspondents Wanted

From places as far apart as Woking, India, and America come requests this month for St. Dunstaners to correspond and possibly pass on the braille REVIEW and "Nuggets."

Mr. J. R. Jerard, of Woking—who is partially blind—would like to correspond in braille. He lives in a home for the blind.

Mr. L. Motwani, of New Delhi, a blind teacher, would welcome letters from St. Dunstaners in braille. He has already met some of our Indian St. Dunstaners at Dehra Dun. "Nuggets" would also be appreciated.

Mr. Clark W. Noble, of Massachusetts, U.S.A., also wants to have the REVIEW in braille if any St. Dunstaner would be good enough to pass his copy on.

The Editor will be glad to give any of these addresses to interested St. Dunstaners.

Stalag 9 A/H

A Christmas card has reached us, addressed "To the boys of Stalag 9 A/H Closter Haina, now at St. Dunstan's." It was from T. J. Rowe (Taffy), R.A.M.C., and it read: "A hearty Christmas greeting that's laden with good cheer, and wishes for the best of luck all through the coming year." Taffy's address is 5 Greenfield Terrace, Cwypark, Treorchy, Rhondda.

In the News

Introducing the first of three articles on party election machines, Charles Wintour wrote in the *Evening Standard* on January 16th:—

"In a very small back room at 22 Gayfere Street, S.W., there sits a blind telephonist before a switchboard. 'Liberal Party,' he says and plugs the call through to the Press Office. 'Liberal Party . . . Liberal Party . . . Liberal Party.'"

"He takes a few minutes off to talk to me, and a pretty girl who has come from New Zealand to learn about switchboards takes over. 'It's the first one I've seen anywhere,' she says, nervously, but sits down to work with what seems miraculous deftness and efficiency.

"The blind man is Mr. Hurrell. He has been working the Liberal switchboard for five years, ever since he was trained by St. Dunstan's.

"He is proud of the fact that for the duration of the election campaign he will operate 15 outside lines instead of the usual four. From now until polling day he will be working an 11-hour day.

"And will he vote Liberal? 'Well, I don't know,' he says. 'I might. I might vote Conservative. I don't know. If at the end of all this I am still sane then I shall just sit back and think.'

"It is to capture the votes of the Mr. Hurrells of this country that the hundred-odd Liberal officials and their staff will be working overtime for the next six weeks."

The St. Dunstaner referred to is our old friend, A. W. Hurrell.

From the *East Anglian Daily Times*, December 28th:—

"For the second year in succession thieves have robbed a blind ex-Service St. Dunstan's man, Mr. R. Waters, who resides at Needham, and carries on a small poultry business.

"On Christmas Eve thieves were apparently disturbed in Mr. Waters' poultry run, but they escaped, taking with them a number of valuable stock poultry."

An excellent article by J. Shonfield, of Reading, appeared in the Christmas Number of the *Christian World*. It was one of four under the heading, "These Count Their Blessings," and our St. Dunstaner wrote it at the Editor's invitation.

International Braille Conference

There are many thousands of blind people in the world who are unable to read or write, or to have any further education at all. That is because there has not been sufficient interest in their welfare throughout the universe.

A few months ago the Indian Government approached UNESCO for advice on this matter and, as a result, UNESCO decided to invite a delegate from each member country to a Conference, in an endeavour to find a way to solve the problem, and to stress to the Governments the importance of the care and education of the blind. The Conference had as its aims:

(a) To give those people who had no knowledge of braille a symbol or sign which is used in most of the European and Latin American languages, and so make a universal braille. This would make it much easier for a person to learn a foreign language.

(b) To make recommendations to the big Conference which is to be held in April next, and to prepare the preliminary work necessary for this main Conference.

UNESCO handed the matter of the Advisory Committee over to its Braille Consultant, Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who is himself a St. Dunstaner, and in due course I received an invitation to be one of the delegates to the Advisory Conference which was to be held in Paris in December.

Arrangements for my journey were made by St. Dunstan's and I flew to Paris from Northolt on December 14th, 1949. I was very proud and excited to be going as a delegate to the Conference, and also a little anxious because it was the first time I had been to Paris. I had little opportunity to explore the city, for the Conference kept us occupied, but I did manage to do a little shopping.

We began by choosing our Chairman, who was from the United Kingdom, and a Vice-Chairman, who was from India. The members of the Conference were from France, United States, Mexico, Egypt and Persia. The meetings lasted six days and we thoroughly discussed all items on the Agenda, which had been prepared by Sir Clutha Mackenzie. Finally, certain resolutions were put forward to be tabled for the main Conference in April, 1950.

I was due to fly back to England, but owing to the foggy weather my return was delayed, and finally I returned by train and boat from Dunkirk.

I got back to England a few days before Christmas, which I spent with friends, and I am very happy indeed to have had the opportunity of attending this initial Conference, which may finally prove to be of such assistance to many blind people throughout the world.

SHARI BEKHRADNIA.

Christmas Cards

Readers may like to be reminded that old Christmas cards and calendars are welcomed by the Andrew Davison Christmas Card Industry, Morpeth, Northumberland. The cards are renovated and the profits go to help badly disabled ex-servicemen to augment their pensions.

Placements

Roy Mendham, Watford, as a capstan lathe operator with De Havilland Engine Company; R. R. Stuart, as an upholsterer with Messrs. J. H. Hunt & Co., High Wycombe; S. Bekhradnia as a telephone operator with Messrs. Alltools, Ltd., Brentford.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," January, 1920:

"The men who are returning after their Christmas holiday, and any old St. Dunstaners who visit the Hostel alone, must walk warily until they are accustomed to the alterations which have taken place as a result of the closing down of the House. The main entrance to St. Dunstan's will in future be by means of the Bungalow Annexe, and Hetherington, the cheery gate porter, who has guided so many of us out of difficulties and dangers as we approach or leave St. Dunstan's, will shortly take up his post there. From the Bungalow entrance, which is only some 200 yards or so beyond the old gate, a covered way runs all the way to the Braille Room, of which half has now been given up to offices for Sir Arthur, Mrs. Bates and her staff. Sir Arthur is to be found in the room which, since this building was erected, has been occupied by Miss Pain. Mrs. Bates and Mrs. Fraser will be in an adjoining room."

Letters to the Editor

The Editor,

DEAR SIR,

Badges for Guide Dogs

We guide dog owners in Holland must carry a white stick with us. This is different than in England as in the Training Centre for Guide Dogs there, you are not allowed to have a stick. I myself do not like a white stick, but find it very helpful, as quite a few people here do not know why the dog has a harness on. It is also very useful in crossing a road, as the traffic would not notice any sign on the dog. As for wearing dark glasses, people are apt to think they are sun glasses, so therefore are not much help. My advice is—no signs whatever on the dog. Just carry a white stick, which is quite noticeable for the public, and safe. It is awkward for me sometimes, as I am still in uniform, and some people think I am just taking a dog out for a walk, as it is not noticeable that I am blind.

Yours sincerely,

Nijmegen, Holland.

REIN WAAS.

The Editor,

DEAR SIR,

I would like to support Mr. A. J. Radford's remarks in the November REVIEW on walking sticks and the ferrule, too. The best way to buy a stick is to ask the shop-keeper for an ash stick. A flimsy stick is no use. I have known two blind men break their stick when travelling alone, in each case getting on a bus.

A fellow St. Dunstaner suggested to me we should have our own St. Dunstan's tie, in our colours. What do others think? Will those in favour send the Editor a card? We are aware of the regimental tie, and both possess ours, but feel there are occasions when a St. Dunstan's tie would be appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

The Editor,

DEAR SIR,

The London Club

May I, through the columns of the REVIEW, speak to my contemporaries of Stretton and Ovingdean.

I attended the Annual General Meeting of the London Club on Friday last. Among the St. Dunstaners present there were but five of the Second War.

I, for one, am not a frequent visitor to the Club, but when I do go I always find a warm welcome there from all and sundry. There are regular evenings for whist, dominoes, bridge and magic, and there are outside activities which are very enjoyable. I have attended several and can recommend them.

Now, all this has from time to time been advertised in the REVIEW, but so far the response of my generation has not been very warm.

During the general meeting, I was very happy to hear one of the first war men say a few words about what could be done to encourage the new men, and I can say how this remark was received. It was the subject of immediate talk, and from all sides I could sense a warmth and general desire to get together and try anything to make the younger men come along.

In the Club is a suggestion box; there is also a chairman, and a postal service, and so I feel sure that if some of the old Strettonites and Ovingdean men would send ideas or suggestions through these channels, they would be dealt with in a most warm-hearted manner. It's also up to the second war men more now as time passes, for the second war men will gradually take over the Club through *anno domini*. So when, in twenty years' time, you—I mean *you*—go into the room, you will maybe meet old so-and-so, who slept in the next bed to you at Stretton, and you haven't seen since '44 or '45.

I have not written this as a committee man or from any personal angle, but merely as a token of thanks to our older comrades, whom I know are really anxious to make the Club as much ours as theirs.

Yours in anticipation,

Tottenham, N.18. JOHN A. MUDGE.

St. Dunstaner Transmits Wireless

A. R. Mallory, of Ottawa, writes: "The season's greetings to everyone. The Mallory clan are well, including my three grandchildren. I am still kept quite busy with the dry canteen I manage here, enjoy bowling, and now have my amateur broadcaster's licence, 'VE3AFL.' I am on code just now, but hope to go on 'phone next January."

Blackpool Notes

To all who will be visiting Blackpool—even for the few minutes whilst reading these notes—greetings for happy days in 1950! We shall look forward to seeing St. Dunstaners and their wives who have been here before, and hope for visits from those who have not yet tasted the joys of Breezy Blackpool.

On December 9th we, as so many more connected with our world-wide organisation, remembered and mourned the loss of our Founder. We held a short but impressive service in the lounge, which was attended by some of our local St. Dunstaners.

December 14th was a day for rejoicing. The oldest St. Dunstaner here, our dear old friend, Don McInnes, celebrated his 80th birthday. We drank to his very good health with a "glassaport" for all.

On the 17th a party of twenty thoroughly enjoyed a band concert, given by the A.A. Battery. It was followed two days later by an invitation from the staff of Messrs. Sitwells, Ltd., to a very jolly party at Dean Street Hall. The following evening we were the guests of the local R.A.F.A., and on the 23rd we attended the Palace of Variety. There was a dance in the lounge on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas morning, Father Christmas called at the usual time (11 o'clock) to distribute the packed and interesting stockings (made of canvas). For several years the first article to be dropped into the surprise packets has been a silver three-penny piece, given by a local "barlady" who wishes the recipients joy—but does not wait for a thank you. Fifty sat down to the festive board. Then we listened to the King's speech before we sat round to enjoy our family party round the fire.

The Boxing Day party was great fun, the evening passing all too quickly.

On Tuesday, the 27th, we went by way of a change to dine at the Tower Restaurant. The Blackpool Corporation lent us a double decker bus for the outward and homeward journeys. On the 28th a small party attended the "Under 30's Club" dance at the Dean Street Hall. R. J. Williams and Joe Walch remained in the musical elbows game to the end and won prizes. On the 29th we saw a new play, "Master of Arts," at the Grand. This was easy to follow,

and as it was about Ascot week we could lay odds that it would be a successful evening. It was.

We had the usual New Year's Eve party, which was scheduled to end soon after midnight, but as Joe Walch and Billy Yarwood let in the New Year it was impossible to curb their—or anybody else's—high spirits for quite a time. However, everyone voted it a happy end to 1949, and a good beginning to 1950.

Things We Should Like to Know

Who suggested Postman's Knock, and who received most letters?

B. V. D.

Other News

Among those who have recently received their Ministry of Pensions cars are Messrs. F. L. Jones, Birmingham; J. Shonfield, Reading; J. Swann, Leicester; and N. F. Pawson, S.E.25.

★ ★ ★

E. Brockie, of Torphins, presented the prizes at a recent whist drive in aid of the Scottish Institute for the War-blinded after he had given a talk on the work of the Institute.

★ ★ ★

J. R. Brown, of Nuneaton, has been in his present house since June, 1916, and basket-making since July, 1915. This is in reply to W. Webb (Great Houghton), who has been in his house and job for 33 years.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Rutledge, of Belfast, has lost her brother-in tragic circumstances. He was killed as the result of a car accident on his way to dine with friends on Christmas Day.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. E. Slaughter, Salisbury, December 23rd. Congratulations.

Natural Causes

Although the fact that he was a wartime soldier gave a man the opportunity of drinking too much raw gin, his death could not be attributed to war service, a judge decided yesterday.

—Report in "Daily Mirror."

Magicians Give Press Show

Members of the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians entertained their instructors to a party at headquarters on Monday, January 2nd, and the occasion was presided over by Madame Zomah, the President of the Institute, who, with her late husband, Professor Zomah, has done so much for the section since its inauguration two years ago.

The instructors present included Ethelbertine, Mr. Oscar Oswald (who acted as M.C. for the evening), Mr. Fred Willis, and Mr. Reg. Jamison, but Mr. John Bradbury could not be there owing to a professional engagement. The function was marked by the presence of a number of Press representatives, and, following the tea, several members performed for the benefit of our friends from Fleet Street.

Mr. Jock Brown started the ball rolling by making a number of cards disappear from his left hand by a mere flick of the fingers, and he afterwards produced them from his right trousers' pocket. Later he was able to indicate which members of the audience held certain coins by means of the cards.

Mr. Alf. Wiltshire followed, and his telepathy act completely bewildered the Press representative who acted as an assistant. He caused a good deal of amusement when he held the pack up to his eyes, and while hunting busily for the ace of spades quipped: "It's a good job the Minister of Pensions can't see me looking for this card; he would not understand."

Mr. Charles Luker then produced six handkerchiefs. Three were placed on a chair and three he proceeded to tie together. But when the three handkerchiefs were picked up from the chair it was found that they had tied themselves together and the other three had become untied. Next he put three dirty handkerchiefs into a box marked "Lux," and after waving the magic wand brought them out again perfectly clean, and then, just to prove there was no trickery, showed the box empty.

Mr. Smudger Smith defied the law of gravity by placing two tumblers on a book and turning them upside down, and to make it more difficult repeated the trick with a silk handkerchief which he first placed in each glass and then withdrew them while the glasses were in an upsidedown position.

With a piece of pleated paper he then produced more than fifty different designs from hats to sentry boxes and mushrooms.

Mr. Horace Manning, who only took up ventriloquism three months ago, showed how proficient he had become with some clever cross patter with his doll, Donald.

Finally, Mr. Bruce Ingrey made a lighted cigarette disappear in a handkerchief, but his best trick was to follow. When two volunteers held the ends of a four foot piece of rope, one cut the rope in two, and after the St. Dunstan's magician had tied the ends together, he passed his hands over the knot and it disappeared, leaving the rope again all in one piece.

The newspaper men went away very impressed by all they had seen—or did not see—and perhaps Madame Zomah herself best summed up the general view of the instructors when she said: "Even I, brought up in the atmosphere of magic, find it hard to believe." As one who was not brought up in the atmosphere of magic, I suggest that "hard to believe" was a slight understatement. This was also borne out by the press notices the following day, the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Mirror* and *Evening Standard* all carried excellent reports of the show.—B. C.

Grandfathers

E. Stevenson, Brighton; G. F. Smith, Guildford; W. H. Lacey, Edmonton.

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. S. Wain, of Derby, both of whom are 81 years of age, have 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Young St. Dunstaners

Sheila Boyter, A.T.S., was first in the javelin throwing and 100 yards race for her group, Royal Signals, and third in these two events for the whole of the British Women's Army.

Marriages

Wilfred Bentley, Manchester, on December 3rd, to Mildred Howarth, and Freda Bentley, on December 24th, to Leonard Charles Baguley.

Thanks

C. B. Baker, of Enfield, wants to thank the unknown person who returned the locket and chain which Mrs. Baker lost at the London Reunion.

Talking Book Library December Delights

In the final month of 1949, the five books released for circulation were all interesting reading. Appropriately enough, one was "A Christmas Carol," and the other four consisted of two detective stories, "The Cambridge Murders" and "The Franchise Affair," one unusual study of a firm of American lawyers, "Howe and Hummell," and one book of adventure, "British Adventure."

"A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, read Arthur Bush, needs very little comment from me except that if there is anyone who had not read it, they have a pleasant couple of hours in store. I must have read it a score of times, yet still, poor sentimental soul, I have to blow my nose.

"The Cambridge Murders," by D. Rees, read Arthur Bush, is, as the name implies, a thriller in which a college don fills the role of private detective, everybody is suspect, and, as usual, the most likely man "done it." Quite entertaining.

"The Franchise Affair," by Josephine Tey, read Robert Gladwell, has a crack at the popular press going for sensation before truth, and shows the hell suffered by a widow and daughter accused of sadism by a good-looking, sexy little baggage backed by the popular press. I like it—you might.

"Howe and Hummell," by R. H. Rovere, read Arthur Bush, gives a glimpse of the largest firm of shyster lawyers New York has ever experienced. Between 1869 and 1907, this firm defended and, it is rumoured, organised crime in New York, all quite legally, or so it seemed. The book may be humorous but these people were too powerful to be really funny.

"British Adventure," edited by W. Turner, read Alvar Lidell, is six books in one. The titles will explain the book fully. Here they are: "British," applying to them all. Merchant Traders; Soldiers; Sailors; Explorers; Mountaineers; and Airmen.

Pleasant reading for 1950. "NELSON."

Misogynist

Mr. Justice Oliver held at Manchester Assizes to-day that a ball hit for six which soared out of a suburban cricket ground and struck a woman on the head could not be regarded as a nuisance.—

Yorkshire Evening Post.

Invitation to the Bawl

An invitation came last week
For four men to a Christmas treat.
The announcement made—we four took
heed.

Taylor, Edwards, Smith and Greave.

Thus, 'twas on Boxing Day we went
Like lords in our car—a real event!
We decided we'd be very gay
To brighten our hostess's holiday.

For no doubt they lived alone,
The mother and daughter, who'd asked by
'phone

For four St. Dunstaners to share
All their goodly Christmas fare.

At last we arrived—but what was this?
No peaceful cottage or sedate young miss.
Indeed to goodness, man—look you—
There were dogs and cats—nine babies too!

"Nine" did you say? Yes, man, for sure,
And barking dogs and cats galore.
The oldest babe was five months old,
We'd struck a baby farm, we're told.

Right at the start, Greaves missed the mark,
He trod on a dog and it started to bark.
It barked so loud, the babies woke,
Crying so hard, we thought they'd choke.

We then were given two babies apiece
To rock until their wailing ceased.
Greaves, having the largest lap,
Was given three to hold, poor sap.

Meanwhile, the ladies had to run
To prepare the meal for which we'd come.
As "sitters-in" we're pretty hot,
Those babes, they slept, the whole d——d
lot.

Peace at last, to the meal we were taken,
The ladies, 'tis true, were somewhat shaken,
For it appeared they thought that we
Quite young boys would sure to be.

We may be getting on in years,
But after we'd knocked back the beers,
Those ladies had to confess, we're told,
That no St. Dunstaner is ever too old!

JACK GREAVES.

And it's true.

★ ★ ★

F. Collingwood, Burton-on-Trent, gave
a talk on St. Dunstan's at a British Legion
meeting recently.

Ovingdean Notes

Such a whirl of activities have taken place here this month that it is difficult to know where to begin our account of them—so what better than to take first things first.

We had two functions to fulfil at Ovingdean, to provide the usual end of term entertainments and then to undertake a very full programme for the holiday men who were coming to spend Christmas and New Year with us. For this reason we began our festivities as early as December 12th, when a really fine evening's entertainment was provided at the end of term Concert for trainees and friends by a number of the staff and trainees. The show, which went with a swing from start to finish, was held in the Music Hut, and there was surely something to appeal to all tastes, whether it was in the fine singing of the Choir and Soloists, the amusing sketch provided by Miss Bates, Miss Wilson and Sister Wightman, the monologue in the Stanley Holloway style by George Killingbeck, or that of Miss Carlton, entitled "My lovely willowy soul." The music was provided by a band, directed by Mr. Redmond, which had amongst its members some of the trainees. We were all pleased to have Lady Fraser with us that night, and glad that she found time to come down before departing on her holiday.

The Trainees end of term Christmas Dinner and Dance was held on Wednesday, December 14th. On this occasion we welcomed Sir Neville and Lady Pearson. After an extremely good dinner, taken in an attractively decorated Dining Room, a most successful dance was held in the Lounge, and the Dining Room was quickly cleared so that the doors between the rooms could be opened for the overflow dancers. During the evening the initial distribution of food parcels sent from Australia was made by Max Miller, and before the trainees went home they each received a parcel from the consignment, as did the other St. Dunstaners resident in the Centre.

Trainees departed for home on December 16th and on the 22nd the holiday men began to arrive.

The programme commenced with a Dance on December 23rd and went on right up to the New Year. We held a Christmas Eve party in the Lounge, and with games, competitions, community sing-

ing, etc., everyone was soon in the holiday spirit. On Christmas Day there was a good attendance at the two Services in the Chapel, and, as in past years at West House, Christmas presents were distributed in the Lounge during the morning and they were handed out by Commandant's little girl Susan. Morning port was provided by the Grocers' Association, and Commandant, on behalf of St. Dunstan's, thanked the representative who was present. After an excellent dinner there were some with sufficient energy to go for an afternoon walk, but there were many who retired for a doze! The evening's entertainment was assured by songs from Harry Costigan and Charlie Thomas, monologues, community singing, etc.

After some rest, at any rate everyone was ready for Boxing Day, and early in the morning over 60's only departed on a Mystery Drive. In the afternoon a party went to the Brighton Hippodrome for the pantomime and most people were in during the evening, or part of it, for the Gala Dance, held in the Lounge. Colonel Ball came along to join us, which gave us pleasure, but unfortunately he could not stay long because of getting home again the same night. Another visitor that evening was Mrs. Ouseley.

On Thursday, December 29th, a big party went along to the pantomime, "Sleeping Beauty," which they thoroughly enjoyed, and on Friday, 30th, we held a Domino and Whist Drive for the local men.

A Gala Dance was held on New Year's Eve, and a surprise visitor was Miss Adele Dixon, the leading boy in the "Sleeping Beauty" pantomime. She was a welcome guest and we gave her one of St. Dunstan's trays as a souvenir of the visit. At midnight, "Auld Lang Syne" was sung, and the New Year, represented by Ernest Deaville dressed as a baby (complete in nightgown and bonnet) was toasted with some very excellent rum punch. Some considerable time later we retired to bed.

Came New Year's day and morning port in the Lounge was followed at 1 p.m. by another very good dinner, with all the trimmings.

In the evening we were entertained by the Clairview Players (who had come from London for the occasion) by a performance of "My Sister Eileen," a three-act comedy.

Previously they had visited West House, and they have promised to come again to Ovingdean. We shall look forward to their next production.

Our holiday men, or rather most of them, departed on January 2nd, and the new term of training begins on January 6th.

Darts and Shooting.

During the past term at Ovingdean our Darts Team have had no less than 22 fixtures. Of these they have been successful in winning 16 games.

December K.O. Competition

Shooting: Winner: E. Bullen (Australian).

Runner-up: P. Foster.

Darts T.B.: Winner: J. Hiscock.

Runner-up: W. Evans.

Darts S.S.: Winner: T. Woods.

Runner-up: B. Dunkley.

Knock Out Tournaments

Christmas Holidays

Winners received 12s. 6d.; Runners-up 7s. 6d.

Shooting: Winner: J. Hiscock.

Runner-up: P. Botha.

Dominoes: Winner: T. Devlin.

Runner-up: A. Pimm.

Cribbage: Winner: B. Owen.

Runner-up: E. Brewer.

Darts T.B.: Winner: J. Hiscock.

Runner-up: E. Taggart.

Darts S.S.: Winner: E. Deaville.

Runner-up: C. Thomas.

Christmas Thanks

Commandant wishes to thank those St. Dunstaners and friends who sent greetings this Christmas to Ovingdean, and Matron Pain writes: "A very warm word of thanks to all who have so kindly thought of me this Christmas, and sent me such beautiful cards. Each one brought many memories and I would have liked to write to each sender, but owing to the hundreds received, I am using the medium of the REVIEW, asking each one of you to take this as a personal message of thanks."

Future Happenings at Ovingdean

In future, news of happenings at Ovingdean, which may be of interest to St. Dunstaners living locally, and to those who may be visiting the district, will be found in the REVIEW immediately following "Ovingdean Notes."

Test Results

The following are Test Results for the month of December, 1949:—

Typing.—T. Woods, E. Green.

Preliminary.—R. Mendham, A. Gimbrere.

Advanced.—W. Evans.

Writing.—W. Waite.

Senior Braille Reading.—S. V. Tutton.

From Mrs. Ouseley

DEAR BOYS,

You have all been so much in my thoughts this Christmas, especially on New Year's Eve. It must have been a case of telepathy when my 'phone rang five minutes before midnight. Your lovely message brought back so many happy memories of West House, particularly when ladling out the Punch Bowl and singing "Auld Lang Syne." Nothing that I can say in answer to all the letters I have received from you can touch the fringes of what I am really feeling.

And now the climax has been reached by the arrival of such a beautiful Wireless Set, in a cream plastic cabinet. It is a perfect tone and so easy to take from room to room. I am deeply touched by your very sweet thought and generosity. You may hardly believe it, but this is the first time I have ever possessed a set of my very own. What a real thrill I shall get listening to the string of my mixed cross doubles come romping home, instead of having to wait for Tiny Northcott's return from the racecourse!

I should also like to thank again the Permanents, Sick Ward, and others for the very delightful St. Dunstan's brooch, which I shall always treasure and always wear. But, boys, my greatest treasure will always be your affection. There is one thing that cannot be devalued—FRIENDSHIP.

MARY OUSELEY.

V.A.D. Ladies' Club,
28 Cavendish Square, W.1.

Marriages

LANGHAM—GARRATT.—On December 17th, J. Langham, of Arnold, Notts., to Mrs. Evelyn Garratt.

PADDICK—BREWER.—On December 15th, C. Paddick, of East Barnet, to Miss Brewer.

“ In Memory ”

Sergeant William Kirkby, 114 King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt.

With deep regret we record the death of W. Kirkby, of Slough. He would have been sixty-seven on January 1st.

Recalled to the Army in August, 1914, he went to France and was blinded on the Somme. He came to St. Dunstan's the following year, where he trained as a poultry farmer and mat-maker. In recent years, however, he had been doing only netting, and his death on December 13th took place after a long illness, which he had borne with courage and patience.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and son, who had nursed him devotedly.

Private William Joseph Blagbrough, Lancashire Fusiliers

With deep regret we record the death of W. J. Blagbrough, of Hulme, Manchester, an old soldier who enlisted in 1904 and was discharged from the Army in June, 1919. Although he had long suffered from the effects of mustard gas, he only came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1949, so that we hardly had time to welcome him into our brotherhood, for he passed away on November 28th. He was sixty-five.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was sent for the funeral. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private Horace Tarling, 1st Essex Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Horace Tarling, of Harlow, who came to St. Dunstan's in 1930, his sight having failed as a result of mustard gas. He trained as a basket-maker, but for a number of years he had not worked, as a result of his failing health.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Frederick W. Spackman, 4th Buckinghamshire Regt.

We record with deep regret the death of F. W. Spackman, of Dagenham, which took place on December 30th, at the age of seventy-four.

He was discharged from the Army in 1917 and came to St. Dunstan's shortly after, where he trained as a mat-maker, but he had not worked for many years owing to continued ill-health.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and grown-up family.

Private Arthur James Harvey, Royal Army Medical Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. J. Harvey, of Worthing, which took place at the Ovingdean Home on December 4th.

He had for a long time suffered as a result of mustard gas, but he only came to St. Dunstan's in 1939. He was a widower and his daughter had cared for him in his most recent illness; in the hope that he would improve, he entered Ovingdean on December 4th, but he passed away there the following day.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his daughter in her loss.

Private Frederick Lionel Green, Royal Garrison Artillery

We record with deep regret the death of F. L. Green, of Fareham, who died on January 4th at the age of fifty-six.

He was wounded at Neuve Eglise in 1915 and came to St. Dunstan's the same year, where he trained as a basket-maker. Although his health had not been good for some time his death was very unexpected.

He leaves a widow and two young daughters, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Births

EDWARDS.—On November 20th, to Mrs. W. Edwards, of Stoke-on-Trent, a son.

MCDERMOTT.—On December 13th, to the wife of J. McDermott, of Wolverhampton, a son—Michael Raymond.

TURNER.—On December 26th, to the wife of R. Turner (12 Park Crescent), a son—Hugh David.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

JOHNSON.—To Mr. and Mrs. F. Johnson, of Derby, whose son, George, died on December 23rd, after a very long illness.

ROBERTS.—To J. T. Roberts, of Stoke-on-Trent, whose mother passed away on December 19th. Our St. Dunstaner lived with his parents.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 369—VOLUME XXXIII

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EDITORIAL

A FEW weeks ago Sir Ian Fraser, with Lady Fraser, left for a visit to South Africa on private business. They travelled by sea and it was their intention to return that way, but the announcement of the date of the General Election caused them hurriedly to change their plans. The sea passage was cancelled and they flew home, Sir Ian being in his office for one day only before leaving again for the north of England.

The redistribution of Parliamentary seats has meant the disappearance of Sir Ian's old constituency of Lonsdale. The new division of Morecambe and Lonsdale has come into being and it was to attend his adoption meeting as Conservative candidate for this new constituency that Sir Ian went north. He will not return to London until after Polling Day, February 23rd. When he returns, we hope to have a Note from him about his visit to South Africa, a country which has seen many changes in the past eighteen months. In the meantime, St. Dunstaners everywhere, whatever their political opinions, will wish him luck, knowing that the interests of ex-Servicemen generally, and of blind people in particular, will be well served by Sir Ian, whether in or outside Parliament.

Mr. Fred Martin, C.B.E.

It is a sad coincidence that, at this time, we have to record the death of Mr. Fred Martin, C.B.E., the first blind man to enter Parliament since Henry Fawcett, the Postmaster-General, represented Brighton in the years 1865 to 1884.

Losing his sight in the First World War while serving with the Gordon Highlanders, Mr. Martin came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1918. After a distinguished career as a journalist, he entered the House of Commons in 1922 as Liberal Member for East Aberdeenshire. He held the seat for two years, losing it to Mr. Robert Boothby, and although he contested three other elections, he was not successful. Throughout the years, however, he has been a prominent figure in the public life of Aberdeenshire. He received the C.B.E. in 1942 for his services, and his last honour came last May when he was elected Convener of the County.

The Marquess of Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, headed the mourners at his funeral, and many representatives of Church and political organisations and professions joined in the last tribute to our old friend. We echo the words of the Rev. James Cordiner, who, in prayer, offered thanks for Mr. Martin's long record of service to county and country. "A man of indomitable courage and versatility, a man who provided courageous leadership and wise counsel, and was richly endowed with talents which he used freely and honourably."

Blind Man Honoured

A blind man who also was once a Member of Parliament was awarded the C.B.E. in the New Year Honours for his public work. He was Mr. Herbert Quin, F.C.S., Chairman of the Belfast Hospitals Management Committee, and who at one time was an M.P. in the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

On the Air

On January 28th, Tommy Gaygan repeated his walking success of last month by beating Archie Brown again, this time over a distance of five miles. Archie had held his unbeaten record for 25 years.

Champion and ex-champion went after the race to Broadcasting House with Mr. Bill Harris, their handicapper, and millions of people listening to "In Town Tonight" heard Archie describe the afternoon's race as the hardest he had ever had. John Ellison summed up when he said, "All I can say is that it's a terrific achievement by all the St. Dunstaners who took part." Congratulations, Tommy and Archie.

Deaf-Blind Watch Fund

St. Dunstaners will, I am sure, be delighted to know that as the result of the note I put in the December issue of the REVIEW, I have received a further £49 18s. which brings the total subscribed to date to £582 12s.

St. Dunstaners have already supplied 104 watches to the civilian deaf-blind, and the further amount subscribed will enable me to purchase a further seven watches.

W. ASKEW.

Mrs. Dacre

Mrs. Elizabeth Dacre, wife of Air Commodore Dacre, ex-Commandant of the Ovingdean Training Centre, and sister of Sir Ian Fraser, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace. Mrs. Dacre is known to many St. Dunstaners, particularly those in the Brighton area, who will hear of her appointment with interest and pleasure.

Grandfathers

D. McCarthy, Fordingbridge; L. Calvert, Ormskirk, twin grand-daughters; S. Sephton, St. Helens (his daughter in Texas, U.S.A., has had a daughter); A. Wright, Liverpool.

Food Parcels from Australia

As many of you already know, during the past few weeks two more food parcels have been despatched to every St. Dunstaner in their own homes through the generosity of the patrons and staff of Hoyts Theatres, Ltd., Sydney. Unfortunately, unbeknown to us, the majority of these parcels did not show the full name and address of the donors. For the sake of those St. Dunstaners who have not yet been able to write a letter of thanks to these kind folk, I give the full address below:—

Hoyts Theatres, Ltd., and Patrons,
600 George Street, Sydney, New South
Wales, Australia.

A. MACKAY.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," February 1920:—

"In December, Captain Russell Roberts delighted his audience with a comparative sketch of colonising methods—British, French, German and Portuguese. He concluded with his experience of being clawed by a lion, with thrills and applause in his audience, but not envy!

"The whole address was of such exceptional interest that it ought to be printed as hors d'oeuvres to a book on 'Twelve Years' Big Game Hunting.'"

And from an article on "Running the London Tubes"—

"Amongst the underground developments which may be looked for as soon as conditions permit are the electrification of the Central London extension to Ealing, the enlargement of the original Tube—the City and South London Railway—with a link between Camden Town and Euston, connecting it to the Hampstead line, giving a direct route from Golders Green to the City and the extension of the Golders Green tube to Hendon."

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. S. Kelly, Leytonstone, February 14th. Congratulations.

London Club Notes

January 28th proved a cold day, but in spite of a strong east wind and hard frost saw a good crowd of walkers and supporters at Regent's Park for the 5-mile race. A fast and interesting race developed from the start. An early breakaway by Pat Cryan and Tommy Gaygan, followed closely by Archie Brown, caused a hot pace to develop, with C. Williamson in close attendance. At the end of the second lap of the Inner Circle, Archie passed Cryan and in this order they turned on to the Outer Circle with Tommy about 25 yards in front, the field 40 yards behind. The pace and positions were maintained until the Inner Circle was reached for the final lap. Here Archie made a few yards on Tommy, but the steady pace of the latter enabled him to hold the lead and win by 38 seconds. C. Williamson had by this time decided to have a go, but Pat Cryan just managed to keep his nose in front. The whole standard of walking and times shows a wonderful effort on the part of all, and the support of escorts exceeded all expectations. We shall need all your support on March 11th for the all-England Championship. Good luck to the Brighton boys who lifted another pot. After the race Archie and Tommy were rushed off to Broadcasting House to appear in "In Town Tonight," but all others returned to the club for refreshments served by Miss Ibbetson and her willing helpers. Then Commodore D. M. L. Neame, D.S.O., R.N., presented the prizes. The speech of welcome and appreciation by Alf Bradley was a masterly effort, especially the little story illustrating sportsmanship; this latter is the spirit underlying the outdoor section, and is developing well. So if you wish to get your share of this spirit, come along to the Inner Circle any Tuesday evening about 6.30 for training. We are pleased to hear that four members have been accepted by the Polytechnic Harriers as hon. members, so that they are using the Regent Street Headquarters of this Club for additional training. P. ASHTON.

Bridge Notes

January has not been a very eventful month owing to the fact that one match had to be cancelled and also that the finals of the knock-out competition dragged on into February. But we did score one

victory against Mr. Crane's team. The idea of the committee, however, is to concentrate on the under-nines and to have more instructional games. This exclusive bridge match affects so very few in the club owing to the habit of only playing eight in a team, that wherever possible we shall try to make it twelve, so as to include more of the members in competitive bridge. We are hoping to have the draw for the new knock-out competition out in February and try and get it over by Christmas. Would members try and make an effort to help the beginners and give them a chance to learn in the easy way?

We thank Mr. Askew for getting the ventilation of the big room put in hand so speedily.

We wish Chalky White every success when he takes up his new job in New Zealand, and a good journey. J. M.

Indoor Section

The Club is now getting into its stride for the second full year, and I would like to put forward a programme which the Committee hopes will receive the full support of all members.

First, there will be the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize competitions—darts, dominoes, crib and dancing—details of these will be published in this column and will be sent to all houses and member clubs. For the London club there will be a whist drive on the second Saturday in each month at 7 o'clock in addition to our usual Tuesday drive. Dancing lessons each Thursday proposed from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Modern dancing, darts matches, crib and dominoe tournaments are being arranged with other clubs and I am also getting into touch with notable personages for the purpose of arranging talks, lectures, etc. A trip to the Derby, perhaps another ladies' outing, rambles, etc. If anyone has further suggestions please let us have them.

Special Notice.—Founder's Day Dance. This will be held at Chelsea Town Hall on Friday, March 24th. Admission 2s. 6d. Bar, light refreshments. Spot prizes, lucky ticket numbers. Tickets by post or at the door. As its name implies, this is to commemorate the opening of St. Dunstan's by our Chief, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, so please come if you possibly can.

Have we any member who can play the piano-accordion? If so, we can make

use of such a member in our small but growing concert party. We have just given a show at St. Alban's Hall, Fulham. Everything was provided through the generosity of local tradesmen; the Rev. C. C. Higgs kindly lent us the Hall. As a result we raised £25 for Club funds.

Congratulations to the following winners of the dance competitions at Chelsea Town Hall on January 13th:—

St. Dunstaners' Events: Mr. E. H. Carpenter, Old Time Waltz; Mr. H. Foster, Fox Trot; Mr. Foster was also the runner-up in the Open Quick Step competition.

Our best thanks to Bob Henderson and Eileen Henshall, the well known dancers, for so kindly coming along and judging the events for us. F. G. FLEMING.

Outdoor Section

Well, the Annual General Meeting has been held and here I am again to give you the latest news about the Outdoor Sports section.

Walking.—Once again there was a record entry for the 5-mile race held on January 28th at Regent's Park. Mr. W. J. Harris did his usual good job with the handicapping and we would like to thank him, the Judges, the escorts and everyone else concerned for making this an excellent afternoon's sport. You will find the times, etc., of this race given opposite. On March 11th the individual championship 7-mile race will be held at Regent's Park, London, for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial prizes, which are silver cups and prizes value £5—one each for the T.B. and S.S. Section. Handicap prizes will also be given to the runners-up in both sections. All entries should be sent to me at the Club by March 5th. This race is for the All-England Championship.

Running.—Several boys have suggested that we should start a section for running. Will any boys interested send their names in to me and if there are sufficient entries we will do our best to get escorts, etc.

Gymnasium.—The gymnasium is still open to all who wish to attend on a Thursday evening from 4 p.m. to 7.15 p.m.

Sports Day.—Do you want a Sports Day this year? If so, let us have your suggestions as to date and place. T. G.

Zomah

February 19th will be the second anniversary of the death of the late president of the Institute of Magicians, Alfred Zomah.

I, on behalf of our St. Dunstan's magicians, offer the following tribute:

*Z stands for Zomah, who mystified the world,
O for Ovations when the curtains were unfurled,
M stands for Magic, which gave him reputed fame,*

And A for his Artists who will reverence his name,

H stands for Happiness, which to St. Dunstan's he subscribed, and to members of his Institute endows the spirit he imbibed.

ALF WILTSHIRE.

Five-Mile Walk

S.S. Section	Actual Time	H'cap All'nce	H'cap Pos'n	Scratch Pos'n
A. Brown ...	42.25	Scr.	6	2
P. Cryan ...	42.43	0.50	3	3
A. Bradley ...	47.34	7.00	1	5
F. Barrett ...	48.17	6.30	2	6
W. Scott ...	49.13	7.00	4	7
J. Lynch ...	54.34	10.15	5	10
<i>T.B. Section</i>				
T. Gaygan ...	41.47	Scr.	4	1
C. Williamson	42.43½	1.15	3	4
E. Hailes ...	51.35	10.30	2	8
C. Stafford ...	51.50	11.40	1	9
F. Dickerson	57.32	13.20	5	11

PRIZE-WINNERS

S.S. Section—

First: A. Bradley.

Second: F. Barrett.

Fastest Loser's Prize: A. Brown.

T.B. Section—

First: C. Stafford.

Fastest Loser's Prize: T. Gaygan.

POINTS POSITION

S.S. Section	Points	T.B. Section	Points
A. G. Bradley	11	T. Gaygan	13
J. L. Lynch	7	C. Williamson	10
W. Miller	7	C. Stafford	6
W. T. Scott	5	C. Cookson	5
A. Brown	4	C. Hailes	4
H. M. Steel	1	F. Dickerson	1
		M. Burns	1

Birmingham Club

Our Christmas Party at the British Red Cross headquarters, Highfield Road, was a grand do, some sixty or seventy people being present. Instead of having a collection towards expenses this year we decided to send the money to the Deaf-Blind Association, and £3 17s. 6d. went to them with our good wishes.

In January we were entertained at Walsall by the Walsall Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Society and a wonderful afternoon it was. We were welcomed by the Mayor and Councillors and nothing was spared to make our visit most happy and enjoyable. Thank you, Walsall.

Talking Book Library

Since there is but one book to comment on, I feel that I might explain my reading method. Unlike yourselves I do not have the advantage of starting at the beginning of each book and reading it through; it is lucky for me if any one book is read completely in three months and at the same time I am reading twenty or twenty-five others, starting in the middle, working to the end, and finally finishing up triumphantly on page the first. You will understand, perhaps, why sometimes my comments are short, and excuse me a little if my remarks are sometimes a trifle unfair. However, this column is but a rough guide, so follow it and "you *can't* go wrong."

The only release this month is "Autobiography," by Neville Cardus, read Eric Gillett. This is the life story of one of the world's leading writers on cricket, in which the author states that his sports writings were a sideline and that he was more interested in whether the flute or the oboe dropped a stitch in the 7th bar of the 3rd movement than whether first or second slip dropped that sitter in the Test Match. Although I know less than nothing about music, this man's sideline writing is very workmanlike and I'm willing to believe that his main line, music criticism, is superb. The book is interesting but the lapse from cricket to music, whilst interesting to many people, leaves me chilly and somewhat disappointed.

Better luck next month!

NELSON.

To Music-Lovers

A friend of St. Dunstan's has offered the gift of an American organ to any real music-lover who would like it. It is in an attractive light oak case and is about 4ft. by 2ft.

If any St. Dunstaner has a real interest in the American organ and would like further details, Mr. Mackay would be glad to hear from him.

Briefly

Jimmie Ellis and Mrs. Ellis, with Linda Mary, sailed for South Africa on January 18th. Our good wishes go with them in their new life.

★ ★ ★

T. McKay, of Edinburgh, has received his Ministry of Pensions car.

Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

While some of us dislike using white sticks, many do so. Do you think it would be appreciated if white sticks for totally blind persons, St. Dunstaners and civilians, were made? The majority, I think, prefer crook handles, but some could be made just straight with top knobs. In either case each stick to be equipped with some sort of small electric bell (batteries would be very cheap and last for months). Then, when one of us needed assistance, pressure on the bell-push would tell a passer-by what was needed.

Of course, the bell-push would need to be protected against giving an unwanted ring through the stick touching a wall or gate, but I feel sure some bright spark could invent some suitable contrivance.

Yours faithfully, ALAN McELLIGOTT.

DEAR EDITOR,

Would you please print this in your next REVIEW. I am a daughter of a St. Dunstaner and my brother and I spent Christmas at Northgate House, Rottingdean. I would like the boys and girls to know its a lovely holiday home, we had lots of games and outings, to the cliffs and pictures and pantomimes. Matron and all the staff are very nice people. We are looking forward to the summer when we hope to go again.

Yours sincerely,

Weybridge.

M. P. S. REED.

P.S.—We also thank Matron and staff and Santa Clause for our lovely Xmas presents.

Tobacco Growing in England

Last month we mentioned A. Hamlett's success with tobacco growing, and we invited our St. Dunstaner to let us have an article on this most interesting subject. He was too modest to write one himself, but he sent us some notes by Mr. Eric Troward, F.R.H.S., which we shall be very glad indeed to send to other St. Dunstaners who may be thinking of taking up tobacco growing.

Mr. Hamlett adds: "Any St. Dunstaner intending to grow tobacco should get the American tobacco seed, which gives a leaf about 22in. by 14in. During my 1948 season I grew 15½lbs., which is quite smokeable when two ounces is mixed with one ounce of shop tobacco. I am sure many other St. Dunstaners would be interested and could be equally successful."

Ovingdean Notes

Our trainees returned to Ovingdean for the spring term on January 6th.

So far this term the Debating Society has met twice. The first time was to debate "That money is the root of all evil," at which they came to the conclusion that it was not! Secondly, they debated, on January 23rd, "That Public Opinion governs the country," and again the opposition won the vote!

Speaking of votes, we have been taking a lively interest down here at the forthcoming General Election and arrangements have been made for each of the candidates for this constituency (it will be a three-cornered fight) to come along and address a meeting in this building. The Liberal candidate has already visited us and the Labour and Conservative candidates will be coming early next month. After that it is up to each of us!

Only one visiting lecturer this month, Mr. Williams, who came along to tell us something of Sussex customs and superstitions. This was particularly interesting to those of us who know little of this county.

Our amusements have included the usual Darts matches, both home and away. Our Monday night dances for the trainees and the ones on Friday nights for holiday men have been continued this term. In Brighton itself we have been able to attend some fine plays and concerts.

An opportunity of a life-time occurred for many of us, when on Monday, January 30th, through the kindness of the Brighton Committee of Jewish Community, a party of our men were invited to attend the concert given by Yehudi Menuhin at the Dome, Brighton. Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the entire programme.

Mr. Cheeseman provided another party for our men at the "Arlington," Brighton, and although the numbers who went were smaller than in the past everyone had a good time.

A team from Ovingdean went to London on January 28th to compete in the St. Dunstan's Walking Race.

Knock-out Competitions

Shooting.—There were 39 entries and during the competition there was some excellent shooting, some of the scores being as high as 49 out of 50.

In the Semi-Finals J. Walch beat K. Gattrell and W. Chitty beat J. Boyd.

In the Finals J. Walch beat W. Chitty, and the scores were 48 with 2 pluses to 48 with 1 plus.

Darts.—Totally Blind: F. Ralph beat W. Phillips in the final.

Semi-Sighted: T. Woods beat B. Dunkley.

Test Results

The following are test results for the month of January:—

Preliminary: D. Wesley, M. Potts.

Advanced: B. H. Briggs.

Writing: D. Alexopoulos (Greek).

Mr. Harry Legge

Many St. Dunstaners of World War I will learn with distress of the death of Harry Legge, for many years an Orderly at West House, Brighton.

He had been very seriously ill during the past three or four years and much of that time was spent in hospital, although he did, for a short while, return to West House staff.

The funeral service on Wednesday, February 8th, was attended by Commandant Fawcett, Matron Pain, and a number of St. Dunstaners and staff who had known Harry Legge over the years since 1923. There were many wreaths including one from Headquarters, from Ovingdean, from men and staff at Ovingdean who had known him at West House, and from many other friends. He is buried in the Bear Road Cemetery, Brighton, close to the St. Dunstan's section. He will be remembered with affection by many.

Young St. Dunstaners

Margaret Cornwell, Rottingdean, has been made Night Sister Superintendent at the "Star and Garter" Hospital, Richmond—and she is only 23.

Cyril Relf, Slough, who is 20, has been promoted to Leading Writer with the Royal Navy.

Donald Wardle (Northampton) has passed in Inter B.Sc. examination at the University of London. He is 21.

Marriage

Eileen Kinder, Liverpool, on September 6th, to Mr. J. Birrell.

FOR SALE

BLACK AND SILVER ALSATIAN DOG, two years and four months old, house trained, grand guard and burglar-proof. Twenty-four champions to his credit. Grand-parents won championship of America. Splendid pedigree and registered with the Kennel Club. Orders also taken for puppies.—A. Worlidge (Registered Kennel Club Breeder), 410 Edgware Road, W.2.

Old Contemptibles

C. E. Bolton, of Bexley Heath, points out that all Old Contemptibles landed in France between August 4th and November 22nd (not the 23rd). We thank him for the correction; this still leaves in all those St. Dunstaners who sent in their names.

He says that he himself was taken prisoner on August 27th and repatriated in February, 1915, which accounts for the delay in his arrival at St. Dunstan's, but he still was among the first twelve at St. Dunstan's.

Other names to be added to the list are Messrs. E. A. Alexander, Parkstone; W. J. Berry, Belfast; J. Lomas, Walthamstow, (who had served from 1905 until 1913 when he was placed on the Army Reserve); G. J. Smith, Leicester (served from June, 1904 to June, 1912, then rejoined on August 5th, 1914); and A. H. W. James, Margate.

Other fine Army records have come to light, not necessarily of Old Contemptibles. C. T. Condon served from December 16th, 1899, during the South African War, to December 15th, 1911, and rejoined again early in 1915. He landed in France three weeks later and was invalided out in July, 1916. On March 30th, 1937, he was blinded while working on munitions.

J. R. Burton, Portchester, who says he was a "near miss" to being an Old Contemptible, joined the D.C.L.I. in July, 1911, and was drafted to Hong Kong in September, 1913. On August 4th, 1914, they were mobilised for active service. One hundred and fifty men of the regiment volunteered to act as marines on board H.M.S. *Triumph*, the ship being short-handed on her complement. For this the regiment was nicknamed the "Prince of Wales' Own Marines"—it being the first time that men from the Army had served with the Royal Navy on board a warship for active service. The regiment arrived in France in December, 1914.

G. J. Smith, Leicester, writes: "I was fairly well known at St. Dunstan's by the name of 'Dusty.' All Guardsmen the name of Smith are called that, or were in my time. I got together a football team called the 'Dustonians,' and we won the Cup. I wonder how many of that team are left?"

How many, indeed? And how many other St. Dunstaners, asks W. Woodrow, of Derby, fought in the South African War?

Births

BANKS.—On February 2nd, to the wife of J. H. Banks, Cricklewood, a son—Robert Brian.

BEATTIE.—On December 17th, to the wife of J. Beattie, of Mobberley, Cheshire, a son—John Franklin.

BLACKMORE.—On November 23rd, to the wife of F. P. Blackmore, of Cardiff, a daughter—Nerys.

GRIFFITHS.—On January 22nd, to the wife of J. H. Griffiths, of Coventry, a daughter—Frances Lillian.

MCNAMARA.—On February 1st, to the wife of S. McNamara, of Dublin, a daughter.

SIMPSON.—On January 13th, to the wife of A. Simpson, of Doncaster, a son—Malcolm Arthur.

STANLEY.—On December 16th, to the wife of G. Stanley, of Market Harborough, a daughter—Julia Anne.

Death

BIGGS.—Our deep sympathy goes out to W. A. Biggs, of Leicester, whose wife died on February 11th. She had been an invalid for many years.

Marriages

MARR—MCHUGH.—On January 14th, E. Marr, of Blackburn, to Miss Evelyn McHugh.

SCROGGIE—INGRAM.—On January 2nd, W. S. Scroggie, of Dundee, to Miss Barbara Ingram.

Blackpool Notes

January produced its most seasonable weather for us when we set out on Sunday, January 1st, for a coach drive round the Fylde to Bleasdale, but in spite of this it proved to be a grand outing.

On January 6th there was a wonderful party at the Seafeld Hotel, with dinner, dancing and entertainments, and on the 23rd we were the guests of the Round Table of Queen's Hydro, South Shore. We joined members of BLESMA, and it proved to be a real joy night. After dinner, Mr. P. Deschamps, chairman of directors of the Hydro, generously presented BLESMA with a croquet set, a bowls set and a twelve months' subscription to six evening, morning and Sunday newspapers, and Matron Vaughan Davies, on behalf of St. Dunstaners, received two lovely easy chairs and two rugs. It was a grand night, with every possible service, including transport laid on.

“ In Memory ”

Private Dennis Horgan, *Royal Munster Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of D. Horgan, of Cork, who served from September 16th, 1913, until June, 1921, but did not come to us until 1938. He was not strong and his health would not permit him to undertake training. He had been seriously ill for the past year and he passed away at his home on January 13th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was laid on the grave, and among those present at the funeral were Messrs. D. Driscoll, A. Keegan, P. Condon, D. Morrison and T. Twoomey, and Mrs. Kenny.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private Frank Summerfield, *1st Northants. Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. Summerfield, of Northampton.

He was wounded at Ypres in November, 1914, and came to us in the following year. He trained in mat-making although he did little of it later. He led a quiet, happy life with his niece, Mrs. Webster, and her husband.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from the Chairman and his St. Dunstan's friends. A Union Jack covered the coffin.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Webster who cared for him for so long.

Gunner Robert Gifford, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of R. Gifford, of Midlothian.

After two years' service, he was discharged from the Army in September, 1917, having been wounded in France the previous April. He came to us in October of that year and trained as a poultry farmer. He interested himself, however, in business and had led an independent life for some years. He suffered considerable illness, but at his request he went to West House when he had recovered, and had a happy holiday there. A short time ago he was taken ill and removed to a nursing home in Edinburgh, where he passed away.

The funeral took place at Warriston Crematorium, a wreath from Sir Ian being among the flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his sister in her great loss.

Private John Baldwin, *19th Cheshire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of J. Baldwin, of Wigan.

He was wounded in June, 1917, and came to us shortly afterwards. As well as the loss of his sight, his right hand was also very badly injured. He trained as a mit maker and boot repuirer and worked hard, despite the handicap of his damaged hand. His health was never good, however, and he spent long periods in hospital. His death, however, as very unexpected and occurred at the home of his sister.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstaner friends was sent for the funeral.

His only relative was his sister, who had cared for him devotedly, and our deep sympathy goes out to her.

Private Frederick William Bull, *Leicester Royal Defence Corps*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death on January 23rd at his home at Weston-super-Mare, of F. W. Bull. He was 74. He served from April, 1915, until April, 1917, and entered St. Dunstan's in 1925 where he trained in wool-rugs and netting.

Since January, 1946, he had been confined to his home following a seizure which left him almost completely paralysed on one side, but he bore this suffering with great fortitude. On January 16th of this year he had a further seizure, which proved fatal.

The funeral service at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Weston-super-Mare, was conducted by the Vicar (Preb. J. E. S. Harrison). A representative of the R.A.O.B. attended the funeral and a wreath from our Chairman was among the flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Bull and her three daughters.

Private Richard Tooth, *Strathcona's Horse (Canada)*

With deep regret we record the death of R. Tooth, which occurred at our Ovingdean Home on January 25th.

He came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1929, his sight having failed as the result of gas many years before. He trained in basket-making, but he had been ill for a long time. He entered our Brighton Home early in 1948 as a semi-permanent resident, and he passed away in the Sick Ward at Ovingdean.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and her three children.

Lance-Corporal John Edward Scally, *Lancashire Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of J. E. Scally, of Corringham, which took place after a long illness on January 27th. He was 58.

Wounded at Guillemont in December, 1916, he came to St. Dunstan's the following year and trained in boot repairing. His sight then improved and he left us, but was re-admitted in 1930 when he took over a small poultry holding.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the flowers.

He leaves a widow and one child, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Crulley

APR 16 1950

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

No. 370—VOLUME XXXIII

MARCH, 1950

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I WENT to South Africa just before Christmas on a private visit in connection with our family business. A gale prevented the ship from getting out of the Mersey and another gale prevented her getting into the harbour at Cape Town; two gales in one voyage and the loss of two days must be unusual. So we only had a few hours in Cape Town. Nevertheless, I spent a little time with Mrs. Chadwick Bates and heard how St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners are going on in South Africa. Mrs. Bates seemed well and sent her best wishes to all her old friends over here. From what she told me and from what I learned in different parts of the country, St. Dunstan's name stands very high in South Africa, in both official circles and with public opinion, and St. Dunstaners both of the earlier generation and of the new are in good heart and active in many ways. My visit was to be such a short one that I was unable to attend any reunions and in this very scattered country the chance of running across individual St. Dunstaners was small. Nevertheless I did meet in Mrs. Bates' office W. B. Riley, who emigrated from this country two or three years ago and has started a tea rooms and restaurant business. He told me he was doing well; and in Pretoria a Civil Servant, with whom I was doing business, told me that Danny Pretorius was his neighbour so I looked in to see him. Danny has a well equipped establishment for physiotherapy with a treatment room, gymnasium room and an office, and seemed to be doing well. In Durban I had the opportunity of meeting two St. Dunstaners. One was Ken McIntyre, who is a lecturer at Natal University and I gathered that he was carrying out a very full programme of lectures and leading a very busy and satisfying life. The other was Dr. Alexander, who also has a physiotherapy establishment in Durban. Being a doctor before the war and before he was blinded he was able to take up this profession without going through the long physiotherapy course in England, and he acts as consultant in Physical Medicine to the Durban Hospital.

The Talking Book is being more widely used in South Africa than it was, now that supplies are becoming more readily available. I was asked by a civilian school for the blind if we could make Talking Books in Afrikaans. As Chairman of the Sound Recording Committee and myself a South African, I was in a position to use my influence to gratify this desire, but I had to explain that the cost of Talking Books is so great that it would not be practicable to record books in this language owing to the limited number who could use them. I added, however, that we would be willing to record a passage from the Bible, or some nationalist pamphlet or declaration, as a sign of our regard for this important Commonwealth language.

As we anticipated, we were called back by the news of the General Election and we flew home. We hear and read so much about fast travel that there is nothing new in it,

but the experience is nevertheless astonishing. We had breakfast in Johannesburg on Tuesday, January 24th, and lunch in London the very next day, Wednesday, the 25th. We flew high above the weather at 20,000 feet and as the cabin was partially pressurised, we suffered no inconvenience. Indeed, it was a most comfortable journey.

I addressed fifty meetings in fifteen days and found this very exhausting. Sometimes there were three or four meetings in one evening and they were often five or ten miles apart. One speech would specialise in matters of interest to farmers and farm workers; another would deal with fishermen; yet another related to holiday and seaside resorts, transportation and petrol; and a fourth would make special reference to old or retired people or to those who work in the shipyard or in industry. But every speech would contain much of the same general material and one of the problems for the speaker himself is not to get bored with what he is saying. Sometimes I got so tired of the theme that I had the greatest difficulty in keeping myself awake. I certainly give full marks to my wife, who listened to every speech as if she had never heard it before, laughing at the right places and setting a perfect example to the rest of the audience.

Mr. Marquand, the Minister of Pensions, came to my constituency to speak against me, and I went, amongst others, to Ashton-under-Lyne to speak against Mr. Harvey Rhodes, who was his Parliamentary Private Secretary in the last Parliament. I did not know that I was put down to visit Ashton-under-Lyne. It just turned up in my tour of duty and I learned afterwards from Mr. Marquand that he was not sent deliberately to my constituency. Nor, as a matter of fact, did either of us mention war pensions in these speeches and I did not mention the subject at all in any speech in my constituency or nationally. The reason for this was that we who are connected with St. Dunstan's and the British Legion did not want to make war pensions a party political issue.

Nevertheless, a few candidates, particularly those with less experience than others, or whose majorities are very narrow and chances slim, indulged in some party recrimination and some echoes of these speeches have been heard in Parliament this last week; but all this froth blows away in good time and we settled down to consider in a sensible manner what is our duty to ex-Servicemen who have been disabled in the country's service.

I should like to thank my friends of all political parties who have sent me messages expressing pleasure at my return to Parliament. This was my seventh Election and I have been much gratified by the number of messages I have received from this country and from many distant parts.

The present House of Commons is a slave driver and I shall have to be there all day and half the night during every weekday of the session, and this will, of course, mean that I have to crowd all my outside engagements into week-ends; if, therefore, I am unable to keep as many engagements in the country as I would like, I am sure my friends in the ex-Service world will understand.

St. Dunstan's Birthday

On March 26th we celebrate the 35th birthday of St. Dunstan's. There was, of course, a small beginning a few weeks before that, but officially we look upon March 26th as the date when St. Dunstan's really began in earnest at the big house in Regent's Park with about twenty blinded soldiers of the first war. My wife, my secretary, Miss Goole, and Mrs. Chadwick Bates, the secretary of St. Dunstan's in South Africa, are I think, the only survivors still with us of those early days. Few societies have made such an impact upon public opinion; few are so well known or have been so generously supported. None in the world, to my knowledge, has so completely taken care of every need and aspiration of every member of its family. With hardly an exception, save for those Scots who went to Newington House, the blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen, including the women, of the two wars, and of the years between, have come under the direct care or the influence of St. Dunstan's. Almost all of them have been trained and settled in some occupation or profession or with some pastime or hobby, and even for those whose wounds or ill-health make activity very difficult there is the spirit of St. Dunstan's and encouragement to carry on. We are all very proud of St. Dunstan's and cherish its good name and the name of its Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson.

IAN FRASER.

London Club Notes

The London Club will be closed for the Easter holiday from Friday, April 7th, to the 10th, inclusive, and will also be closed on March 24th next for the Founder's Day Dance.

The following Sub-Committees have been appointed:

Bridge.—J. Muir (Chairman), S. Webster and N. Downs.

Indoor Section.—F. G. Fleming (Chairman), J. Mudge and Eddie Edwards.

Outdoor Section.—T. Gaygan (Chairman), A. Brown and C. Williamson.

P. ASHTON.

Bridge

We have to congratulate C. Gover and S. Webster on winning the Pairs Competition for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Cup and also to offer our condolences to the runners-up for such a close match. We are hoping to have our annual trip to Harrogate but the date has not yet been confirmed, but in the meantime, will members give their names in so that we can get an idea as to numbers. We found the team brought to play us on the 17th just too much for us. Mr. Jolly paid us a visit from Blackpool and told us of the wonderful strides he has made in building up a bridge club in Blackpool. He has now got his own boards and so we should be sure of a duplicate game whenever we visit Blackpool.

J. M.

Indoor Section

We are glad to report the indoor activities well set in their stride and now progressing with many pleasant evenings.

The Saturday Whist Drive is very popular with a growing number of regular attenders, amongst them being some whose occupation makes it impossible for them to come along on the Tuesday. Why not try it one Saturday when you feel like an entertaining evening?

The more the merrier and the greater the prize.

The Thursday Dancing Class is a great success under the expert guidance of Miss P. Barnes, F.I.S.T.D., and we anticipate a difficult time for our judges when the next competitions come along. Miss Barnes makes up two sections, A and B, so whether you have done a lot of dancing or are just

an ambler-round, you will soon be on the way to competing standards if you come along on Thursdays.

The Darts Team is still winning its matches, having three wins out of the last four matches. The team travels around quite a lot, so keep in touch with the Club and you may find the team is coming "down your way," when you can be there and help by throwing a nifty dart with them. In any case, you will have an exciting and pleasant time meeting many new folk in your own district.

We are very pleased to see a gradual increase in the attendance of the new war men, and already many of these are taking part in our teams for cribbage, dominoes and cards when we visit social clubs, which visits we hope to increase in the near future.

We would welcome, too, any fellows who can sing a song, tell a story or play a musical instrument, into the concert party. We cannot have too many of you as it is sometimes difficult to get a full show when it means a very long journey for someone.

Times to remember:—

Dancing: Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Dominoes: Thursdays, 7.30 p.m.

Whist: Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m., and Saturdays, 7.0 p.m. F. G. F.

Outdoor Section

The next walking race will be the 10-mile event, starting from Bedford College, Regent's Park, at 2.30, on May 6th. Entries should be sent in as soon as possible to the Club.

Swimming will commence on May 1st, so shake the moth out of your costumes and come along to the Seymour Baths, Seymour Place, N.W.

We are still anxious to have a running race, so let us have your enquiries and we will arrange escorts, etc.

In the meantime, the Gym is still at your service, and we hope a few rowing fellows will come along this year so that we can stage a regatta.

T. G.

Institute of Magicians

On March 2nd the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians gave a display of magic at the Headquarters of the Institute. A report of this concert is given on another page.

St. Dunstan's Club, Liverpool

The first year of the Club is drawing to a close and we believe that we have justified our existence, if only because twenty-four St. Dunstaners scattered throughout Merseyside have become firm friends, all looking forward to our next meeting.

The outstanding events have been a coach trip to Blackpool, a very enjoyable day's outing made possible by the generous assistance of Matron Davies, who made us welcome in the true spirit of St. Dunstan's; and Christmas Party—and what a party!

We also sent a party to Brighton for the tournaments; they brought back a Cup, won by W. Shayler. Not bad for a first try.

Now we are arranging a coach trip to Harrogate, etc., for Whit Saturday.

My job as Chairman has been made easy by the untiring efforts of T. Milner, our Secretary, and A. Wright, Treasurer, supported by a keen Committee.

We want more members. In fact, we want every St. Dunstaner within range of Sefton Hall, Rodney Street, Liverpool, to come along on Saturday, April 22nd, to appoint Officers and Committee.

May I, before closing, express the thanks of the Club to all members who so generously gave donations and other gifts; these, without doubt, were the making of our efforts.

Last, but not least, our thanks to the Ladies, who have seen to it that we have a nice afternoon tea at our meetings, apart from providing markers for the games.

To all who have not joined the Club I say, if Blodwyn who comes from Ruthin can come once a fortnight (and Blodwyn, incidentally, was the winner of the Whist Tournament organised from London), then I am sure you who live nearer can make the effort. Come on, boys! Give your wife a break! A day out in Liverpool and spend the afternoon with us. We want to know you.

L. JACKSON, *Chairman*.

Manchester Club

The Manchester Club is anxious to enter a more representative team to compete in the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions than was possible last year when most of the competitors were of the 1914-1918 vintage (and a very good vintage it is), but we should like the younger generation to join us in upholding the

traditional sportsmanship of the North-West.

Then we should like to arrange Sports (swimming, etc.) for the summer months, providing we can get sufficient response from the younger St. Dunstaners. Will any of you who are interested write to the Secretary, Mrs. Dunphy, The Rough, Chester Road, Mere, Nr. Knutsford, letting us know what type of sport you are interested in and we will try to arrange facilities.

It has been suggested that St. Dunstaners of all ages might be interested in Saturday afternoon rambles. Will you let us know if you would like to join us? By the way, the Club meets at The Red Cross House, Milton Place, Broad Street, Pendleton, on the second and fourth Friday in the month, from 6 to 9 p.m. We shall be pleased to see any St. Dunstaner and it does not matter if you cannot arrive early. Milton Place is opposite Pendleton Baths bus stop.

We have spent many happy times during the past six months, the highlight of which was the occasion of our visit to the Blackpool Home on the invitation of Matron, where we attended the Armistice Memorial Service in the Lounge, and were entertained to lunch at the Bourn Hotel and to tea at the Home by Matron. What a lunch! what a tea! and what a Matron!

Then our friend, Mrs. Jackson, who has entertained many St. Dunstaners in her home from time to time, gave us a most enjoyable party and entertainment at the Longsight Liberal Club, which over 70 men and escorts from the Manchester Area attended.

Our Club Party was held early in the New Year, 70 St. Dunstaners attending. Mrs. Irvine was the guest of honour and was received with great enthusiasm by those St. Dunstaners who were members of her original Club.

Mr. Hilton, Vice-Chairman of the East Lancashire Red Cross, to whom we owe our sincere thanks for granting us the use of the Red Cross House for our meetings, was also present, and we were pleased to welcome six members of the King's Roll of Ex-Servicemen. Our one regret was that Matron Vaughan Davies was prevented by sickness from being with us, so our Glee Party had no opportunity of embarking on "Nellie Dean," which is reputed to be Matron's signature tune.

1950 Derby Sweepstake

The Derby will be run on Saturday, May 27th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Derby Sweepstake. No other person is eligible to hold them.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 12th.** Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered.

The total amount of the money subscribed after the cost of printing and postage has been deducted will be distributed as follows:—

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

The remaining 20% will be divided equally amongst those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

Colonel Baker Honoured

Col. E. A. Baker, Managing Director of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, who came to St. Dunstan's during the First World War, was recently elected a Trustee of the American Foundation for the Blind in New York in recognition of his outstanding leadership in work for the blind. This is the first occasion on which anyone living outside the United States has been accorded this honour. The Foundation's Board of Trustees consists of sixteen outstanding leaders in work for the blind from all parts of the United States. About twenty-five per cent. of them are themselves blind.

Ministry of Pensions Cars

The following St. Dunstaners have received their Ministry of Pensions cars:— Messrs. R. H. Brett, Brighton; J. Irvine, Glasgow; G. H. Orrow, Chingford; J. Swann, Cosby, Leicestershire; R. L. Vincent, Cricklewood; M. Golding, Greenwich.

Old Contemptibles

W. A. Robinson, of Grimsby, is added to the list. He arrived at Le Havre on August 14th, 1914, and was later wounded in the left hand (which is now disabled). He went back and served until October, 1917, when he was shot through the head and both eyes. He had enlisted as a trumpeter in 1901, was transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment in 1904, and served with the regiment until Mons. Then he served with the 3rd Div., 9th Brigade. After his first wounding he went back to the 1st Lincolnshire Regiment and served with them until he was blinded.

Edward Butler, of Hayes, is another who served in the South African War. He joined the North Staffs. Regiment in October, 1899, went to South Africa in 1900 and was there for two years. After service in India he was transferred to Reserve, but joined up again in 1911 and went to France in 1914. He won the D.C.M. the following March and was wounded three months later.

Correction

C. T. Condon was blinded in March, 1917, and not 1937 as printed in the REVIEW.

Thirty Years Ago

*From the "St. Dunstan's Review,"
March, 1920:*

"An Association of Women Workers of St. Dunstan's has been formed, open to all past and present workers of any department. The objects are (1) To enable former workers of St. Dunstan's to keep in touch with each other and keep alive the spirit of St. Dunstan's; (2) For purposes of re-union; (3) To further any plans for the maintenance and development of the work among the blinded soldiers and sailors in the future. The Association was formed in December, 1919, before the closing of the House, and a General Meeting was called, when it was decided to run the Association with a Committee of ten. The following were elected to serve on the Committee: Miss Power, Miss Bell, Miss Evers, Miss Fitt, Miss Wilson, Miss Pain, Miss Gregg, Miss McAndrew, Miss McCullough and Miss Witherby. Miss Whatley was elected Hon. Treasurer and Miss M. Phillips, Hon. Secretary."

Camps

The Royal Navy, Lee-on-Solent, once again invites St. Dunstaners to spend a wonderful holiday week as their guests.

This year's Camp will be from Wednesday, August 2nd, until Wednesday, August 9th. (The Bank Holiday and other circumstances have made it necessary for the Camp to be from Wednesday until Wednesday this year.)

Fares over 15s. repaid. £1 7s. 6d. fee payable in Camp.

Please send your names in as soon as possible to Mrs. Spurway, Holmwood Vicarage, Nr. Dorking, Surrey (Tel.: Dorking 73191).

The Royal Air Force have also kindly promised to have a Camp, probably in July; the date in next month's REVIEW. Will anyone wanting earlier confirmation of the date write to Mrs. Spurway.

Impartiality of Voters

The following results of the General Election will interest ex-Servicemen and women.

MIDDLESBROUGH, EAST			
Mr. H. Marquand, Minister of			
Pensions (Lab.)	...	...	29,185
Edwards, A (C.)	...	...	12,402
Thomas, Dr. W. S. Russell (L.)	...	...	4,540
Levy, Dr. N. (Comm.)	...	...	367
Majority	...	...	16,783

MORECAMBE AND LONSDALE			
Sir Ian Fraser, President, British			
Legion, Chairman of St. Dun-			
stan's (C.)			
...	...	...	28,041
Gaskell, A. (Lab.)	...	...	12,768
Leeming, G. (L.)	...	...	5,723
Majority	...	...	15,273

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL, EAST			
Commander H. Pursey, R.N.,			
journalist and critic (Lab.)			
...	...	...	26,903
Heyting, J. W. (C.)	...	...	13,988
Dalton, T. E. (L.)	...	...	6,981
Majority	...	...	12,915

CARDIGAN			
Captain E. R. Bowen, Chairman,			
House of Commons Branch,			
British Legion (L.)			
...	...	...	17,093
Morgan, I. (Lab.)	...	...	9,055
Little, Dr. G. S. R. (C.)	...	...	6,618
Majority	...	...	8,038

Wilfred Pickles and Tommy Gaygan

Wilfred Pickles (who needs no introduction to St. Dunstaners, or to anyone for that matter), contributes a column from time to time in the *Daily Express*, and on March 9th he wrote in the course of it:—

"Humanity has more troubles than those that reach the headlines. I wonder if they can be mended? I wonder if that desperately worried London mother who wrote to me will find happiness soon?"

"I feel sure she will when I think of some folk I know. Like Tommy Gaygan. I met Tommy Gaygan, a 29-year-old Londoner, when I went to record readings of my autobiography for St. Dunstan's.

"Tommy works on the switchboard there in Hinde Street, London—and a fine operator he is, too. No wrong numbers with him.

"So I got quite a shock when I found that during the war he lost both his hands and both eyes.

"Tommy tells me he has entered for the seven-mile St. Dunstaners' walk round the Inner Circle in Regent's Park next Saturday.

"(I'm going to be the official starter. And my eyes will be on Tommy). What about closing yours for just two minutes and trying to walk across the room?"

"Then think of what John Masefield wrote:—

'Best trust the happy moments.

What they gave

Makes man less fearful of the certain grave,

And gives his work compassion and new eyes;

The days that make us happy make us wise.'

"And remember Tommy Gaygan. 'Number, please?' In his voice is proof that beyond despair can lie happiness."

Scripture Union Notes in Braille

The DAILY NOTES which are written for the Scripture Union by leading Evangelical writers and scholars and have a wide circulation at home and abroad, are now published in braille by the N.I.B. and are available in bi-monthly volumes, published on the 20th of the month preceding the month when they come into use. The annual subscription is 8s., post free. All enquiries in connection with the Notes should be sent to the National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

South African News

During the last few weeks we have had the pleasure of welcoming our London Chairman and two other St. Dunstaners from Britain. For Sir Ian, it is of course a return home. Many of us are apt to forget that our London Chairman, strictly speaking, is a South African St. Dunstaner, and so we were glad to welcome him to the land of his early childhood once more. Although Sir Ian has to attend to the affairs of his private business interests when here, nevertheless we know he does enjoy the sunshine and a well-earned breathing space from his many public duties in England. Alas, on this occasion his spell of relaxation was short-lived, as he had to curtail his visit and get back quickly to limber up ready for the fray of the British Election. We are sorry he had to leave us in a hurry, and while not knowing a thing about British politics or any other politics for that matter, we sent every good wish to Sir Ian for his success in the knowledge that all his efforts are guided by high motives. We know him as the champion of ex-Servicemen, St. Dunstaners and disabled ex-Servicemen in particular.

It is splendid news that he was returned to Parliament with such an overwhelming majority.

At the same time we were very pleased to welcome Beryl Sleigh on a return visit to South Africa. Beryl was out here two years ago and we regard it as a compliment to our country that she is back again so soon. We also knew that we would be in for some musical treats in the course of Beryl's concert tour.

Next to arrive was Jim Ellis and family. Jimmy is another who is by no means a stranger to South Africa, having spent nearly two years under training at "Tembani." It is a happy thought that Jimmy, who began his new life at St. Dunstan's (S.A.) is back again to take up the appointment of Appeals Representative for the Union and Rhodesia, working under the supervision of Mrs. Chadwick Bates, who, as we all know, has been the philosopher and guide to so many St. Dunstaners of both wars. Together with Jimmy were Mrs. Jimmy and baby, Linda Mary. For Mrs. Ellis this is also a return home, and we all join in wishing the Ellis family all happiness and success in their new future in South Africa.

On Sunday, February 12th, several St. Dunstaners together with Mr. Alers Hankey, the Chairman, and other members of the St. Dunstan's Committee for South Africa, and many other friends, all foregathered at the City Hall to hear Beryl sing with the City Orchestra. The concert was good, and Beryl sang beautifully. The audience gave her a splendid reception and we were all very proud of Beryl when she came on to the stage again amid rounds of applause, to receive masses of beautiful flowers.

The following evening Mr. Hankey and members of the Committee gave a cocktail party in honour of Beryl's success and to welcome Jim Ellis and his wife back. More than seventy St. Dunstaners and friends of St. Dunstan's assembled there. Many old acquaintances were renewed and the name of "Tembani" was very much in evidence. This was a little reunion that we did not expect and was greatly enjoyed. *Cape Town.* "ST. DUNSTANER."

St. Dunstaners Entertain Magicians

On the evening of March 2nd, the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians gave yet another grand display of magic at the Headquarters of the Institute, Denison House, Victoria, in front of a large audience which included many of the "Big Boys" of the conjuring world, as well as several representatives of the general Press.

Each performer must have felt elated by the big ovation he received. The artistes appeared in the following order—Charlie Luker, Alf Wiltshire, Percy Ashton, Tiny Fleming (bass baritone), Horace Manning and his doll, Bruce Ingrey, and Smudger Smith.

At the end of the show, the artistes, together with their tutors, all came on to the stage, and I felt I had to pass a few words of grateful thanks and admiration for the St. Dunstaners and their tutors for the wonderful way they had carried out one of my husband's last wishes.

Madame ZOMAH,
President of the Institute of Magicians.

★ ★ ★

Sergt. Alan Nichols thanks all those St. Dunstaners who have sent letters to him. He hopes to acknowledge these personally at the end of the month.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIR,

Some years ago—about fifteen—it was suggested that as the deaf-blind couldn't hear people around them, their sticks be fitted with a bicycle or other bell. It was pointed out people would think it a bicycle or telephone bell and not trouble to make sure, so a whistle was suggested. As this, however, might bring a policeman or a taxi, that idea was thrown out, and the idea of carrying toy balloons in our pockets and blowing 'em up till they went "bang!" was suggested. But that could be mistaken for a busted tyre and, after all, it was thought the schoolboy who liked a practical joke would be the first to be attracted, so the idea of audible appeals was abandoned.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR SIR,

As the wife of a St. Dunstaner, may I encroach on the space in the REVIEW and ask a question which has intrigued me for some time. At what age do most St. Dunstaners' children realise that their daddy cannot see? Some time ago there was a case in the paper about blind parents whose child of fourteen months *knew* its parents were blind. As my baby was then nearly three and still unable to grasp the fact about my husband not seeing, I wondered if this was just paper talk. Barry, our boy, who was well over three before he understood, is intelligent and quick at grasping things and now he does understand and it is amazing how thoughtful he is and how quickly things are moved out of his father's way.

Yours sincerely,

Rayleigh, Essex. (Mrs.) A. H. ROBINSON

DEAR SIR,

I am writing about the Alarm Clocks, about which there was a recent reference in the REVIEW.

This clock is an idea but it does not seem to be well thought out. Firstly, the face is not well designed; one has to cover miles to find the spots, and these are ill-defined for such a large face. The hands would be better, I think, if tubular and solid. Then the alarm setter is not marked in braille, so it is not possible for us to set it at all. Finally, the said "arrow" which indicates which way the wheel which sets the clock in motion turns is also not

readable, and unless one commits this to mind, one might damage the clock.

I point out these factors for I feel that if things are going to be produced for our use, they should be done in such a way as to be of full value to us. I feel, in its present state, it is rather a waste of money, and wonder if this is a reasonably general opinion and if anything could be done to make it more perfect for the blinded.

Yours very sincerely,

Aston Clinton, Bucks.

PAUL BAKER.

He'd only Murmur "Ting-a-ling"

*It's wise to use a nice white stick,
It pays to advertise
That you wish to cross the road
And need a stranger's eyes.
Halt at the spot you wish to cross
Is the best thing for we chaps,
And upon the kerb where you stand
Give two or three sharp taps.
A passer-by will soon come up,
They all know this old rule,
And for the assistance, just say, "Thanks,"
The word you learnt at school.
But if we start to ring out bells
Or some other kind of din,
Folk will think we're on the phone,
Or selling fresh muffin.*

*This trend of scientific thought
Has set my mind a'-racing.
Of many kinds of different things
We blind chaps could be embracing.
We could have crepe rubber pads
Upon our heads and shoulders,
This would save us scratching walls
Or hitting folk like boulders.
Then could we not walk on stilts,
My mind is not all muddles,
To save us getting our feet wet
By treading in big puddles?
I'm glad that someone rang a bell
It's sent my mind delighting,
What about a night-time stick
Made of fluorescent lighting?*

*I've just had an amazing thought—
I think it is a pearl.
Why ever use a stick at all
When you can find a girl.
A moral to these lines of verse
I give to you in greeting.
If you can think and laugh and ioke,
Then blindness you're defeating.*

N.17.

J. A. MUDGE.

Talking Book Library - Fertile February

This month the hotch-potch of half a dozen books is offered to the all-devouring reader, but one or two of the volumes one might read for a penance instead of enjoyment.

"The Death of the Heart," by Elizabeth Bowen, read Eric Gillett, is a study of innocence, an orphan, obliged to live with a step-brother and wife (sophistication) in London. The orphan girl somehow never commands the reader's sympathy, mainly because the action in the book is negligible, the plot non-existent and the characters shadowy and unreal. Penance.

"The Hampdenshire Wonder," by J. F. Beresford, read F. P. Bayley, is the story of a superhuman intellectual freak who was drowned at the age of seven by the village idiot. The ups and downs of his short life make an interesting little book. Horrible, but readable.

"Sir Nigel," by A. Conan Doyle, read Joseph McLeod, is the forerunner of "The White Company." Set in the 14th century, the yarn is correct in the detail of the times but it's possible the author has overdone the chivalry of the age. However, the book shows clearly where modern sportsmanship originated. Fine story, well told, all adding up to enjoyment.

"Inheritance," by Phyllis Bentley, read Eric Gillett, is a Yorkshire mill story of a family feud from early in the last century to the twenties of this. Exciting events and a coherent plot give good entertainment.

"Total War at Haverington," by J. Bell, read Mary O'Farrel, is concerned mainly with the mechanics of evacuation in a small town during the London blitz. The prominent people are the M.O.H., members of the W.V.S., evacuees and various local and county councillors. The main features include love, real and physical, graft, bereavement, spite and condemned buildings. People and features all interwoven produce quite a tasty dish.

"Everybody's Political What's What," by Bernard Shaw, read Gordon Little, leaves me gasping and doubtful as to what *is* what. G.B.S. was 88 when he wrote this and I suspect that he has treated many of the subjects he covers several times

before. A mass of closely argued half-truths and bags of prejudice, or is it experience? In any case, the book is worth reading for the anecdotal humour and the irrepressible twinkle of the author. Read it—and tell me all about it!

Over to you!

NELSON.

Braille-Reading Competition

We have heard from the National Library for the Blind that the twenty-first meeting of the "E. W. Austin" Memorial Reading Competition will be held at the National Library on Saturday, June 3rd. St. Dunstaners would be most welcome at the competition.

Unseen passages will be read and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression. (Should the entries in any class be very limited, prizes will only be awarded if merited).

The Adult Section will be divided into three classes:—

Class A.—Advanced readers in competition for the "Blanesburgh" Cup;

Class B.—Other readers;

Class C.—Readers who have learnt to read braille since the age of 16 and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced classes. This Class will be divided into:

1.—Readers who lost their sight before 1938.

2.—Readers who have lost their sight since 1938.

There will also be an Open Event, for which everyone is eligible, including all previous winners in any Class, for the reading of a poem from Palgrave's "Golden Treasury."

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, not later than Tuesday, May 23rd, stating in which Class they wish to enter.

Grandfathers

H. A. Perrett, Devizes; H. A. T. Pearce, Leicester.

★ ★ ★

L. Jackson, of Heswall, who became grandfather to a pair of twins sixteen months ago, has now become great-uncle to another pair.

Ovingdean Notes

February, many times called the gateway of the year, was not too promising at the beginning of the month and there was heavy and prolonged rain, which kept many of us indoors more than we would have wished.

In the house the Debating Society met twice during the month and on both occasions there was a large audience of trainees and Staff. Possibly the most successful debate for a long time was held at Christ's Hospital, Horsham, on February 25th. The subject was, "That Euthanasia should be practised in this country." St. Dunstan's opposed the motion and carried the debate. Those who took part were most impressed by the kind hospitality they received and it is our earnest hope that the boys of Christ's Hospital will visit Ovingdean again shortly.

With the General Election much in our minds, a good attendance was assured for the Labour and Conservative local candidates when they came along to speak on their Party Policy. Varied questions were put to Mr. Huddart (Labour) and to Mr. Johnson (Conservative) which made them very aware of the interest St. Dunstaners were taking in the Election. On Polling Day some St. Dunstaners went along to the Polling Stations but many had taken advantage of Postal Voting. On the 24th work was carried on to the accompaniment of the radio and surely excitement ran higher nowhere as we listened to the results coming in. On hearing of Sir Ian's re-election to Parliament a telegram of congratulations was sent to him from Ovingdean.

Our entertainments have taken us out a good deal. The first occasion was the Annual Dinner provided by the Brighton, Hove and District and the Southdown Bus Companies and held at the Black Lion, Patcham, and this was followed soon by an invitation from Sherry's Dance Hall for a party of St. Dunstaners and partners to attend a St. Valentine Dance. Both these events were much enjoyed as was Mr. Cheeseman's Dance at the Arlington, Brighton, when 30 St. Dunstaners and escorts went along.

Our Darts Team took part in a number of matches during February and they tell us they had a grand time wherever they went.

By the end of the month the weather had improved and that is, perhaps, why we began to think of our Summer Sports.

It is proposed to run the Annual Sports Meeting at Ovingdean early in July (possibly the second Saturday in the month—but the exact date will be announced later), and once more it is hoped that we shall receive many entrants from the St. Dunstan's Clubs and local St. Dunstaners. The events will be as follows:—

70 yards T.B.

70 yards S.S.

Standing Long Jump

Putting the Weight

Throwing the Discus

Throwing the Cricket Ball

Throwing the Medicine Ball

Team Relay

Walking Race

Tug-o'-War

Mr. Jarrold would like to hear from St. Dunstan's Clubs wishing to enter teams. Not more than two men should be entered for each event except the Tug-o'-War.

Anyone interested is asked to get in touch with Mr. Jarrold at Ovingdean not later than May 31st.

Darts

Totally Blind—11 entrants

Winner: H. Briggs;

Runner-up: J. Hiscock.

Semi-Sighted—18 Entrants

Winner: T. Woods;

Runner-up: E. Deaville.

Shooting

36 Entrants.

Winner: T. Denmead;

Runner-up: W. Evans.

Easter Programme at Ovingdean

We shall be very pleased indeed to see local St. Dunstaners (with escorts) at any of the following occasions at Ovingdean during Easter week:—

THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH, at 8 p.m. Dance (the usual Friday dance that week is cancelled).

FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH, at 8 p.m.—A Concert.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH, at 7.15 p.m.—"Jane Steps Out"—a comedy by Kenneth Horne, performed by The Clairview Players.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH, at 8 p.m.—A Party in the Lounge.

MONDAY, APRIL 10TH, at 8 p.m.—"Gala Dance" (until 11 p.m.).

THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH, at 8 p.m.—
Domino and Whist Drive (Invitations will
be sent for the Domino and Whist Drive.
To help us with catering please reply
promptly when you receive your invitation).

*Dances on Friday, March 31st and Friday,
April 14th will be cancelled.*

Easter Services at Ovingdean

GOOD FRIDAY—Evensong at 5.15 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY—Communion Service at
10 a.m.; Evensong at 5.15 p.m.

Other News

As a drummer in a band and a keen
gardener, R. Craddock, of Sankey, War-
rington, doesn't have much spare time!
He had a wonderful show in the garden
last season. He does all his own digging,
planting, sowing and raising of bedding
plants. ★ ★ ★

Stanley Fowler, who operates a capstan
lathe at Raleigh Industries, Nottingham,
has been interviewed by B.B.C. commen-
tator, Stephen Grenfell, for a new series,
called "Export Jig-saw." A photograph
of Stanley with Stephen Grenfell appeared
in the local paper.

Now Stanley writes:—

"I have been in the news again. Two
more photographs. Most people seem
interested to see me at work since the news-
papers said I cut more steel than the average
sighted man, and now visitors are coming in
droves—quite a side-show!"

Marriage

TANNER—GREENFIELD.—On March 11th,
A. B. Tanner, of St. Ives, to Mrs. Rosetta
Greenfield.

Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cookson, Kendal,
March 7th. Congratulations.

Ruby Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Col-
linge, of Blackpool, who recently celebrated
40 years of married life.

Placements

W. Morgan, as a capstan operator with
C.V.A., Ltd., of Brighton; G. W. Elphick,
in the tobacconist and confectionery business
recently held by T. Shepherd, at Welling.
The latter is emigrating to Australia next
month.

FEBRUARY TEST RESULTS

The following are Test Results for February:—

Typing.—T. Partington, J. Shaw, G. McKay.

Writing.—J. G. Hill.

Young St. Dunstaners

George Scrimgour, Middlesbrough, has
been appointed Master in History, English
and French, to the Senior Secondary Boys
at Marton School, and his sister, Jacqueline,
has passed with honours the first examina-
tion in the Theory of Music under Trinity
College of Music, London.

★ ★ ★

Marriages

Richard Nolan, Market Drayton, on
January 29th, to Miss Sheila Harvey.

Henry Hall, Chilton, on March 4th, to
Miss Betty Scott.

Joyce Perrett, Devizes, on March 18th,
to Norman L. Weston.

Heather, adopted daughter of W. Heu-
shaw, Potters Bar, was married last Sep-
tember.

In the News

*Extract from an article in "The People," London, 12th
March, 1950:*

"When Joe Doubler, serving in the
Navy, was blinded by a German torpedo
in 1917, he thought it was goodbye to his
hopes of building a pigeon loft and racing
the birds he had loved so much in his
boyhood days near Cardiff.

"For Joe could not imagine how a
successful career in the sport could be made
without eyes to see and watch for the birds.

"But Joe's courage was indomitable.
St. Dunstan's taught him braille and how to
handle a telephone switchboard, and soon
he had a job in London.

"He saved steadily and, with his brother,
started a poultry farm on 12 acres of land
Joe bought at Abbots Langley, Herts.
And Joe had a bungalow there, too.

"Then Joe sat down to think about racing
pigeons. Could a loft be designed so that
he could know instantly where his birds
were resting? Could he develop a sense
of touch that would select a good, fit racer
—without ever seeing it?

"Joe could and did. And now, fifty-six
years old, he is one of the most skilful
fanciers in the game, beating his clubmates
year after year.

"During the last three seasons alone he
has won 11 first prizes, 10 seconds, and
many thirds and fourths."

R.A.O.B. News

Congratulations to W. Shayler, who has
been raised to Third Degree, K.O.M.
Aero Lodge, Liverpool.

“In Memory”

Petty Officer Cook Fraser Thomas Reynolds, *Royal Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. T. Reynolds, of Painswick. He was eighty two. It was while serving with Patrol Ship “Zaida” in 1916 that he was wounded, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1927, when he trained as a netter.

He had been in failing health for some time and was admitted to Ovingdean, but he passed away there on February 17th.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his daughter, Mrs. Faux, in her loss.

Sergeant Robert William Stephen Bondy Horsley, *Rifle Brigade*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of “Bob” Horsley, who was a familiar figure at Brighton for many years. He was 62.

Upon his discharge from the Army in January, 1916, he came to us at the end of that year, and he trained first as a mat-maker and basket-maker, and later as shorthand typist. He was not, however, able to take a job.

He had been in failing health for some time and at the beginning of the year he was admitted to the Sick Ward at Ovingdean. He passed away there on February 7th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and another from his friends at the Ovingdean Home were among the flowers at the funeral.

Steward David MacReady, *Merchant Navy*

With deepest regret we record the death of David MacReady, of Birmingham, at the early age of forty-nine.

Enlisting in 1914, he saw continual service through two wars and in the course of that service was torpedoed eleven times. As a result, his sight was so severely damaged that he came under St. Dunstan's care in December, 1948—three years after his discharge from the Service—but he did not train as he was already in employment. Many people will remember his broadcast in the Wilfred Pickles' show on October 26th.

During 1949 his health began to fail, and early this year he was admitted to Ovingdean, but he passed away there on February 24th. He was buried in the St. Dunstan's plot of the Brighton Cemetery.

We extend our deep sympathy to Mrs. MacReady in her bereavement.

Edward Cameron, *Australia*

We have heard with regret of the death of E. Cameron, of New South Wales, Australia, who did not, however, come to St. Dunstan's. The news of his death came in a letter to Sir Ian from his widow, to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

Births

BAILEY.—On February 26th, to the wife of J. Bailey, of Guildford, a son—Terence Ronald.

DONELLY.—On February 12th, to the wife of T. D. Donnelly, of Birmingham, a daughter—Joyce Mary.

GORMAN.—On March 2nd, to Mrs. S. Gorman, of Maghull, near Liverpool, a son.

HUMPHREYS.—To the wife of J. Humphreys, of Londonderry, a daughter—Marilyn.

KEY.—On February 1st, to the wife of A. Key, of Stone, near Dartford, a son—Malcolm Stuart.

MINNAAR.—In November, to the wife of C. L. J. Minnaar, of Johannesburg, a daughter.

NICOL.—On February 10th, to the wife of J. Nicol, of Hebburn, Durham, a son—Leslie.

DU PLESSIS.—On January 25th, to the wife of M. A. du Plessis, of Johannesburg, a son.

DU PREEZ.—On January 12th, to the wife of J. G. du Preez, of Johannesburg, a son.

Death

WILKIE.—Our deep sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilkie, of Burton-on-Trent, whose second son, Edward, died in the military hospital at Hong Kong on February 28th as a result of injuries received in a railway accident. He was 23. He was only 17½ when he enlisted in the Regular Army, and saw active service in Holland and Germany in the last five months of the war.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ON another page in this REVIEW are some letters which I have received from St. Dunstaners regarding the Lord Mayor of London's Thanksgiving Fund for the gifts from overseas.

I recently had a report submitted to me by Mr. Mackay on the subject of food parcels which St. Dunstan's has received during the past year. This is what he said:—

This has been an exceptional year for food parcels, as we have received nearly 12,000 gift parcels from our friends overseas. Hoyt's Theatres, Ltd., of South Australia, gave us 2,500 parcels at Christmas, and this has been followed by a further gift of 5,000. The St. Dunstan's Committee in Buenos Aires sent over 2,000 parcels, one for every St. Dunstaner, and South Africa followed with a further 1,000 from the Victoria League, Johannesburg. Mr. Richardson, of Adelaide, Australia, despatched several hundred parcels during the year direct to the homes of our St. Dunstaners. His Committee in Adelaide have now sent a parcel to every man, the gifts being spread over the last three years. Mr. Richardson visited this country last summer and we were able to thank him personally for this great kindness.

In addition to these large gifts, we have received several hundred parcels from friends in America, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and Australia. Not least welcome were six lovely sides of bacon from the Victoria League, Johannesburg. These were made available to Ovingdean, Blackpool and Park Crescent.

I am sure that nothing would give St. Dunstaners in this country more pleasure than to be able to express in some tangible form the deep gratitude and appreciation which we have all felt at the continued generosity of our friends from overseas. We have tried to express our thanks in our letters, but now the opportunity has come for us to show our gratitude in a more practical way. The gifts and parcels sent to us by our friends in the Dominions and Colonies have meant much to us in these days of austerity, and we shall always remember the understanding and kind thought which prompted them.

I therefore welcome the suggestion that St. Dunstaners should make their own special contribution to the Lord Mayor's Fund. As regards the amount, I think the suggestions made by two of our correspondents are excellent, namely, that St. Dunstaners' donations should vary from 1s. to 2s. 6d., as they think fit. Mr. Askew has kindly agreed to act as Treasurer, and subscriptions should be sent to him at 191 Marylebone Road. On a date to be announced, our own fund will close and we shall then formally hand over to the Lord Mayor for his general fund the gift which St. Dunstaners have made. The Thanksgiving

Fund, as St. Dunstaners will have heard on the radio or read in the newspapers, will be used to build a residential centre in London for students from overseas.

St. Dunstan's has many ties with the Dominions and Colonies, ties which become closer as the years go on. In the dark days of the war, and in the years since, they have shown with great insight how much they have understood our problems and difficulties, and in numberless ways have helped us to overcome them or bear them more easily. We in this country, and particularly the men of St. Dunstan's, welcome the opportunity we now have of saying thank you to our very good friends.

The Talking Book

It is nearly fifteen years since the first Talking Book was produced for St. Dunstaners and since then—despite the 50 per cent. reduction of the service during the period of the war—more than 600 books have been recorded for your pleasure in your own homes. Many changes and developments have, of course, taken place through the years and it is certain that the future holds still greater achievement in this field.

Looking back, it is interesting to recall now that with the original Talking Book Library of pre-war days, clockwork reproducers with internal horn and sound box had to be used for St. Dunstaners who had no electricity supply in their homes. For those with electricity, there were A.C. and D.C. machines, containing either Garrard or H.M.V. pickup, an amplifier and a small loudspeaker. These machines had facilities for using earphones instead of the speaker if desired. Now we are using a very fine groove in our records, just half the dimensions of the ordinary music record, and these original sound-boxes and pickups proved so heavy that the wear on Library records presented a real problem. In addition, dropping the pickup or sliding it across the record usually completely ruined it.

The development of new magnetic steels made it possible to make pickups having about one-eighth the weight on the needle, and more recent developments have produced an ultra light-weight pickup, having approximately one-thirtieth the weight on the needle. Our new machines are fitted with light-weight pickups, operated by means of lifter and positioning device, the latter being designed at the Studios and produced in bakelite. Most of the pressing of the bakelite parts was carried out at Ovingdean, and a very good friend of the Talking Book Department, Mr. F. W. Bontor, made the original tools and presented them to us.

These new machines are naturally much kinder to the Library records, which will now give acceptable reproduction over a number of years. Unfortunately, we had a large number of records in the Library which were badly worn by the old machines, together with those manufactured during the war from inferior materials. These records will gradually be deleted from the catalogue, but in the meantime call for the use of the scratch filter or tone control fitted to the reproducing machine. The newer records will be found to have less surface or background noise, but the tone control should still be used because the records are made with what is termed a "rising characteristic." This means that more of the high frequencies are on the record than necessary for a good balance, and by using the tone control to reduce them the surface noise is further reduced.

Needles have always been a problem, and much research was carried out in pre-war days. With the introduction of the light-weight pickup, the use of precious stones and metals became possible, and needles of sapphire, ruby, diamond, tungsten-carbide, osmium, iridium, etc., were tested. At present we are using synthetic sapphire, which is regarded as a semi-permanent needle and will last from six to twelve months, according to the reader's use. After, however, all the old records are eventually replaced or deleted, these needles will have increased life. If, in the future, we develop the ultra light-weight pickups, undoubtedly the diamond point will be used and will probably last the life of the pickup, or longer.

The next step might well be using the ultra light-weight pickup, and going as high as three hundred grooves to the inch, instead of the present two hundred. On the other hand, we have, since the inception of the Talking Book, kept a close watch on other sound

recording systems, such as the sound film, the Phillips Miller system, magnetic wire and magnetic tape. These "wrapped up systems," as they are termed, offer certain advantages over the disc method, particularly where we are concerned, and magnetic tape copies can be made in the Studio rapidly and to meet Library demand. When the demand for any particular book falls, the tape material can be magnetically wiped clear of the previous recording and a new recording can be made on it, and even if the reader in the Studio makes a mistake, it can be immediately deleted and the sentence started afresh. Research work on the tape Talking Book is still going on, and prototype machines are being manufactured. The magnetic tape will be totally enclosed in containers or cassettes, and so arranged that no threading, etc., is necessary. There will be a number of sound tracks recorded side by side, and when the reader comes to the end of each track he will be told to turn the cassette over for the new track, just as he does with his present record, and so on to the end of the book.

But before we commit ourselves to a new system, extensive tests will be made. Machines in cassettes will be sent by rail and post to prove their robustness, etc.; extensive wear tests of machines and tapes will be made and, finally, tests by blind users under their normal conditions and their reactions noted. All this, of course, takes time, and it may well be perhaps two years before a definite decision will be made; even then the cost may be the deciding factor. Two major points in its favour—particularly if the Library is extended—are the amount of Library space saved and the elimination of transit breakages.

All this is for the future, however, but I thought you would like to know something about the research that is taking place all the time to improve your listening at home and to produce a still more efficient Talking Book service in the years to come.

Black and White Sticks ?

Mr. Anthony Nutting, M.P. for Melton, writes to me pointing out the difficulty which a blind constituent of his experiences in crossing roads when motor cars are following each other very closely. The blind man says you cannot tell by hearing when one motor has passed whether there is another immediately behind, and asks if the motor cars could be compelled to leave more space between them. Mr. Nutting makes the obvious comment that this is impossible, especially on crowded roads, but enquires whether a black and white stick would not show up better than an ordinary white stick.

I pass the suggestion on for what it is worth, and would be glad to know if anyone in the blind world has any view about this matter.

IAN FRASER.

Placements

B. H. Briggs, as a telephonist with Messrs. Harper & Tunstall, Ltd., Edgware; J. Fenny, Durham, on deburring with Steel's Engineering Products, Sunderland; W. Howarth on industrial work with Messrs. Shipton & Co., Northwood Hills; J. E. Brown, of Cambridge, as telephonist with the Eastern Electricity Board, Cambridge; J. Blakeley, as telephonist with Thomas Nuthall & Sons, Ltd., Farnworth; G. A. Jacobs, as telephonist with the Essex County Council; N. F. Nolde, temporarily with Rolls Razor, Ltd., Cricklewood; A. E. Hurl, in a shop at Margate.

★ ★ ★

W. Storer, of Rugby, is on the committee of the local Royal and Ancient Order of Buffaloes, and takes the chair at meetings, etc.

Derby Sweepstake

We remind St. Dunstaners that the closing date of our Derby Sweepstake is *Friday, May 12th*. Application should be made to the Editor, St. Dunstan's REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each. Only St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees may apply.

The draw will take place in the Club Room at St. Dunstan's Headquarters on the evening of Friday, May 19th. All those drawing a horse will be notified.

Grandfathers

H. T. A. Pearce, Leighton Buzzard (not Leicester, as given last month).

★ ★ ★

A grandfather for the second time—C. Durkin, of Orpington.

London Club Notes

On March 24th, the London Club held the Founder's Day Dance at Chelsea. A bouquet to "Tiny" Fleming and his sub-committee, and to Major Curtis, and a word of thanks to Mr. Willis, our Club Steward, for a simply grand evening.

The sun, it is said, shines on the righteous. It certainly shone for the 7 miles All England Championship Walk. The large crowd which turned up were well rewarded in seeing a field of fourteen competitors, who were started by Wilfred Pickles, "have a go."

Off to a good pace, the first eight kept well together; at six miles, the leaders and times were: Gaygan, 53.21; Williamson, 54.48; Brown, 54.52; Cryan, 56.54; Morgan, 56.56; Miller 57.23; Bradley, 59.31; Denmead, 59.56. All these gained special R.W.A. certificates for walking six miles within the hour. Good show, chaps!

From this point, Brown overhauled Williamson to finish second, 2.52 behind Gaygan. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were there to welcome them at the finish.

The presentation of awards was made at the Club by Wilfred Pickles, then Archie Brown presented a small table, made by a St. Dunstaner, to Mrs. Pickles, who made a charming reply. Then followed a presentation on behalf of the walkers and escorts by Mr. W. J. Harris to Archie Brown, to mark the 25th anniversary of his activities in St. Dunstan's athletics, especially his efforts during the past year which had made this day possible. The whole proceedings were wound up by a witty and able speech from Alf Bradley, to which Wilfred Pickles replied by expressing his appreciation of all he had seen and heard, and promising to visit us again. Congratulations to the London team on winning both Cups. We were pleased to see F. Dickerson up in Handicap.

Bridge.—On Saturday, March 18th, we had a very successful Bridge Drive with forty people taking part—one of the biggest yet held. We overflowed up to the staff canteen; the drawback to these large rooms is the very bad echo.

The knock-out competition is well under way and, after the drive on Saturday, we had a visit from an old friend—Mr. Ottaway—who presented the prizes, the first going to Messrs. Gover and Webster for winning the knock-out for 1949, Mr. Jackson and

partner winning the Bridge Drive, with Mr. Douglas second, and Mr. Coles and partner third. Mr. J. Carrow was M.C.

Indoor Section.—The Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Prize Competitions will soon be in full swing. *Darts, Dominoes, Crib:* Copies of these Rules can be obtained from the Club. They will be sent to Club Secretaries. *Whist and Dancing:* Details to be announced later.

Derby Trip (Indoor Section, London Club).—Will any member wishing to make this trip please forward 25s. It will cover sandwich lunch, bottle of beer, tea on the return journey, and admission to No. 1 Upper Enclosure.

Ladies' Outing, June.—Names and suggestions as to place welcomed.

TINY FLEMING.

7 Miles Sealed Handicap and Scratch Race, March 11th, 1950

S.S. Section	Scr. Race	All.	Time	Time
			Han.	Act.
A. Brown	... 2nd	1.00	64.00	65.00
W. Miller	... 6th	5.45	61.43	67.28
A. G. Bradley	8th	8.15	61.17	69.32
W. T. Scott	... 10th	10.45	63.25	74.10
J. Lynch	... 12th	18.15	61.39	79.54
T. Denmead	... 7th	8.45	60.41	69.26
P. J. Cryan	... 5th	1.30	75.01	66.31

T.B. Section

T. Gaygan	... 1st	Scr.	62.08	62.08
C. Williamson	3rd	1.35	63.38	65.13
S. V. Tutton	... 11th	15.15	64.10	79.25
F. Dickerson	... 13th	22.25	58.53	81.18
C. Stafford	... 9th	13.45	60.00	73.45
E. Cookson	... 14th	21.25	61.54	83.39
A. Morgan	... 4th	6.45	59.15	66.00

Prize-winners:

1st in Championship for Challenge Cup:

A. Brown. 2nd, P. Cryan.

T.B. Section Challenge Cup and prize:

T. Gaygan. 2nd, C. Williamson.

1st prize in Handicap, S.S.:

T. Denmead. 2nd, A. Bradley.

1st prize in Handicap, T.B.:

F. Dickerson. 2nd, A. Morgan.

Aggregate Points to date

S.S.		T.B.	
A. G. Bradley	14	T. Gaygan	... 14
J. Lynch	9	C. Williamson	11
W. Miller	8	C. Stafford	... 16
W. T. Scott	6	E. Cookson	6
A. Brown	5	F. Dickerson	6
H. M. Steel	1	E. Hailes	... 4
		M. Burns	... 1

Birmingham Club

We want first of all to extend to all St. Dunstaners a cordial invitation to come to Birmingham in September to take part in our Annual Swimming Gala. We hope to welcome at least one team from each Club. Any other entrant will be formed into a Rest of England team. The more the merrier. We invite you therefore to keep free September 16th (the date will be confirmed later). Again, Messrs. Cadbury Bros. will probably be our hosts, so we can look forward to a really enjoyable gathering, even improving on that of last year.

Lanes will be laid this year and every facility provided. Arrangements will be made to meet all entrants. Tea will be provided for all, at which the Birmingham Cup will be presented to the winners. Some of our most loyal supporters are 1914-1918 men, so don't be left out if you can swim at all. Probable events:—

Beginners' 2-width race.

1 length free style First War men.

1 length free style Open.

1 length back stroke.

1 length style competition (own choice stroke).

1 length under water race.

Diving.

Plate diving.

Obstacle race.

Relay team race.

In addition to the Gala, Birmingham have several interesting summer events. In June we hope to return the hospitality of the Walsall Limbless ex-Service Club and entertain them at our Red Cross Headquarters. In July we plan an outing, which even our long distance members attend. This outing last year was a record, both for attendance and enjoyment. This year will be even better.

A river trip and sports seem to have become permanent items on this programme. We are indeed fortunate in having the Voluntary Transport Service Friends to help us on these occasions.

At our September meeting the handicraft exhibits will be judged, and prizes awarded in the various classes. With typical St. Dunstan's generosity these articles will then be given to the Red Cross, who are such good friends of ours, to help with their October Sale and money-raising efforts.

Our monthly meetings continually bring us new members. We are proud and delighted that they and the older pioneers find the Club so satisfying.

Shall I see you at Camp? I hope so.

P. M. FAIRHEAD,

Hon. Secretary.

Another Fine Record

T. J. C. Parrish, of Finedon, tells us that he joined the South African Corps, commonly known as Baden-Powell's Mounted Police, at Modderfontein in February, 1901, and served with them for five years. He left South Africa the same year and joined the Hunts. and Bedfords. Yeomanry in 1908. In August, 1914, he was called up for active service and served as a sergeant in England until March, 1916, when he retired, but in September of the same year he rejoined as Corporal and was transferred to the 21st Bedfordshire Infantry. He was wounded and lost his sight at Hill 60, in June, 1917.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Loveridge, North Harrow, April 2nd; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Higginson, Eastcote, April 12th. Congratulations.

Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Overill, Bexley Heath, celebrated their Ruby Wedding (forty years) on March 28th.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Thomas, Cardiff, were married forty-four years on November 6th last. Mrs. Thomas's notification of her ruby wedding four years earlier did not reach us.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," April, 1920:

"On another page of this issue appears an account of a fire which took place at the College Annexe early on the morning of the 26th March. Though considerable damage was done to a part of the building, and most of the linen of the Annexe destroyed, fortunately there were no serious casualties. Everyone behaved splendidly, and we offer our heartiest congratulations to Miss Power and the V.A.D. staff, as well as to the men and orderlies, and last, but by no means least, that very gallant body of men—the London Fire Brigade."

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIR,

I wonder how many white stick users have the same trouble as myself? Here in Southampton there are iron grids in front of shops and houses, which are a danger to every blind man who carries a white stick. When crossing these grids, either the stick is wrenched out of one's hand or it drops through, and it is a job to recover it, sometimes impossible.

Here is an idea I have thought out. Get a stout round of rubber or leather, big enough to bridge the bars; cut a hole in the centre to allow the stick to fit tightly. That will, I think, help to solve the problem.

Yours sincerely,

H. F. BEED.

Southampton.

DEAR SIR,

Doubtless there are many St. Dunstaners who have received the new Talking Book. I found at first a little difficulty in remembering the correct way to turn the back right-hand top knob for the pickup, so to save damaging the set, we evolved the following little jingle:—

"Turn it away and on you go.

"Turn it towards you and stop the show."

Yours very truly,

C. E. ("GRANDPA") BEAUFOY.

Dover.

DEAR SIR;

I agree with Paul Baker that the braille alarm clock is inconvenient. The alarm dial is too small and, being on the face of the clock, is liable to be masked by the time hands. The trouble arises from a wrong approach to the problem, inasmuch as the N.I.B., instead of designing an alarm clock, has merely taken an existing mass-produced clock and fixed on an embossed dial; this results in a braille alarm clock of sorts at little or no addition to the original cost of the clock, but very little imagination has been exercised.

The question arises: Are the blind ready to pay the much greater cost of a clock designed for their use, which would probably not be mass-produced?

I do not need my braille clock for telling me the time of day—I use my watch for that—so I have overcome the dial setting problem as follows: I choose an average

time for rising—7.30—and I have the alarm hand set permanently at that time. If I wish the alarm to ring earlier or later than 7.30, I set the time hands fast or slow accordingly. That is to say, if I wish the alarm to ring at 8, I set the time hands half an hour slow; if to ring at 7 o'clock, I set them half an hour fast, and so on. You soon get used to it. This method has the advantage that it is always accurate. In fact, one can time the ringing of the alarm to the exact minute practically because the time dial is big enough to make accurate settings of the hands easy. I admit that this is in the nature of a makeshift method and liable to confuse a sighted member of the family, but it is a very easy way of obtaining accurate alarm settings:

Yours sincerely,

Teignmouth.

THOMAS FLOYD.

DEAR SIR,

I regret that I have found it impossible to acknowledge individually the receipt of each package of razor blades, therefore I would like to take this opportunity to thank the readers of the REVIEW who have kindly forwarded their old razor blades, and in doing so have contributed towards the funds for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

According to the correspondence I have received, I am assured of a steady supply during the coming months, but I would like to appeal to those who have not yet contributed to start collecting from to-day. With no sacrifice and very little effort we can turn old metal into good money, which in a small way will help the association to fulfil its great obligation to the blind people of this country.

Yours sincerely, CHRIS WILLIAMS.
36 Tudor Road, Kingston Hill.

DEAR EDITOR,

In the past, I have read many letters in the REVIEW, concerning the deaf and blind of St. Dunstan's. I am one of those St. Dunstaners who has the misfortune to have his name included in the deaf-blind list. I am writing now to make a few points clear to St. Dunstaners, St. Dunstaners' wives, and escorts. First and very foremost, there is a vast increase in the amount of people who can speak the hand language. I have noticed this increase every time I have visited Ovingdean. I would like to take this opportunity

to thank all those people very much indeed. It has been extremely kind of you all, and I more than appreciate your friendship. To those people who cannot speak the deaf and dumb language, let me point out one or two things. It only takes 15 minutes to learn the hand alphabet. When learning, bear in mind the fact that there is no hurry; just take your time. Secondly, don't worry about mistakes, and, thirdly, don't worry about spelling mistakes. Some of you may think I am talking hokus pokus, so I will tell you of two cases this year. I was in hospital at the beginning of the year; there was a little boy in the ward only eight years old. He came to my bedside and saw on my locker the card showing people how to speak our language. He borrowed it. About twenty minutes later he returned the card and, without the assistance of the card, started talking to me. The lad was a Cockney from Bow; he only had an elementary education; what's more, he had missed a lot of education on account of being in hospital. When I was discharged from hospital I went to Ovingdean. Whilst at Ovingdean I met a totally blind Greek officer called Mr. Alexopoulos, and known by all as Alex. He has only been in this country six months and was blinded whilst serving with the Greek Army. He asked if he could be taught the deaf and dumb language. It took him just over ten minutes to learn it, after which we had some interesting talks about different things. And Alex's Greek escort learnt the alphabet too.

I hope with what I have written that I have been able to convince you that the deaf and dumb language is very easy. I haven't written these lines entirely on my own behalf. I have written them with the hope that they may help other deaf-blind St. Dunstaners as well.

Yours very sincerely,
Saltdean. WALLY THOMAS.

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Camp Notice

Please note change of date for the Lee-on-Solent Camp.

Friday, August 11th to Saturday, August 19th.

Shawbury (R.A.F.) Camp: Saturday, July 1st to July 8th.

Closing date for entries for both Camps: May 10th.

Helping the Malayan Blind

Back in this country on a flying visit from Malaya has been Major Ronald Bridges, formerly of the 7th Ghurka Rifles, who is doing a big job in the Far East in helping to rehabilitate the blind. He has been attending the UNESCO International Conference on Braille, in Paris.

Two and a half years ago, Major Bridges went to Malaya to join the Department of Social Welfare in Kuala Lumpur as Welfare Officer for the Blind. Previously he had worked under Sir Clutha Mackenzie, the Commandant of St. Dunstan's at Degra Dun, and Advisor to the Government on Indian Blind Welfare.

When Major Bridges first went to Malaya there was little being done for the civilian blind, and he has since devoted much of his time to educating Malayan and Chinese children, many of whom have been blind since birth. Already he has got one school going in Jahore Bohru, and when he returns, hopes to organise more schools and centres in spite of the many difficulties.

The education of the blind native children presents a very great problem, especially in these days of terrorist attacks in Malaya, and there is no doubt that a tremendous task still lies ahead for our St. Dunstaner, to whom our best wishes go in his magnificent work.

Young St. Dunstaners

Leslie Storer, of Rugby, who is now a Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy, was awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours.

Alice Dickinson, Wigan, is now a State Registered Nurse.

Marriages

On February 15th, James Woodhouse, Hulland, to Miss Emily Mould.

On March 18th, Audrey Joan Scott, Winsford, to Mr. Dennis Manley Whittaker. Her twin sister, Muriel, was a bridesmaid, and Matron Vaughan Davies was among the guests.

On March 25th, Henry James Howes, Montrose, to Miss Elizabeth Paton.

On April 1st, Ernest Moore, Folkestone, to Miss Phyllis Jarvis.

On April 1st, Winifred Moeller, Dagenham, to Mr. W. Edmonds.

On March 18th, George Shayler, Liverpool, to Miss June Barbara Wright.

From the Chairman's Postbag

The Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Fund

DEAR SIR IAN,

During the past few years, members of St. Dunstan's have been the recipients of useful and excellent parcels from various parts of the Empire and America. I am sure that we have all greatly appreciated these timely gifts, for they have helped in no small way our somewhat monotonous diet.

The Lord Mayor of London's Fund, launched last week, is a grand idea and I do feel that a large number of my colleagues would like to associate themselves with the project.

May I suggest that in next month's REVIEW you put a paragraph asking for subscriptions from those who would care to participate, and I would suggest that a sum of 2s. 6d. be nominated. I think that a round sum coming from St. Dunstan's would meet with the highest approval from the authorities—especially if it was known to them that the sum is contributed by the members of the organisation.

Yours sincerely,
Redhill. REGINALD P. COLES.

DEAR SIR IAN,

I have been hearing quite a lot about the Lord Mayor's Fund. I suggest that it might be quite a good idea to have a voluntary collection amongst St. Dunstaners and forward to the Lord Mayor whatever is collected as a gift from the members of St. Dunstan's.

If you think anything of this suggestion perhaps you would set the machinery in motion; the subscription need only be small—a shilling or two.

Yours sincerely,
Sanderstead. P. GARRITY.

Points from other Letters

"On hearing the appeal made by the Lord Mayor in connection with a Thanksgiving Fund, I wondered whether this is not an opportunity for St. Dunstaners to pool together and make a joint contribution to show their gratitude and appreciation of the many parcels we have received from the various Dominions and Colonies."

N.W.8. P. NUYENS.

"May I warmly support the suggestion that St. Dunstaners make their own contribution towards the Lord Mayor's Fund. I think it is an ideal way of expressing our gratitude."

Harrow Weald. B. M. T. S. LEETE.

"I should like to suggest that a collection be started among the men of St. Dunstan's towards the Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Fund, just to show how much we have appreciated the food parcels sent to us from our friends overseas."

JOCK MUIR.

To Teach the Blind in Greece

As a result of the help St. Dunstan's has been able to give him during the past six months, a war-blinded Greek officer is now on his way back to Athens where he will teach braille and typing to other Greek servicemen who were blinded. He is Major Demetrios Alexopoulos, who was blinded by an Italian mortar bomb while serving with the 2nd Greek Division in Albania in 1941.

It was H.R.H. Princess Eugenie of Greece who first led the enquiries into the training of blinded ex-servicemen. Her Royal Highness's interest in the welfare of the blind goes back to the time when she served as a V.A.D. attached to "Tembani," South Africa, during the war. The Princess suggested to Sir Ian Fraser that Major Alexopoulos might undergo special training in England to help her countrymen, and the Major shortly afterwards came to St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, to study our methods.

There are to-day about 150 blinded ex-Servicemen in Athens requiring training and rehabilitation.

Public Affairs

G. Price, of Minehead, has just completed his year of office as Chairman of the Rate-payers' Association. He is standing as an Independent Candidate at the Local Council Elections on May 8th.

★ ★ ★

H. White, of Stalybridge, is another St. Dunstaner interested in public affairs. He, too, is standing for the Borough Council at the May elections. We wish them the best of luck.

Founder's Day Dance

The London Club celebrated Founder's Day (March 26th) with a Dance at Chelsea Town Hall on the 24th, and the function was marked by the presence of Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, Col. Eric Ball and Mr. Askew. The Ball-room presented a colourful scene, the walls and stage being draped with the flags of the British Empire and Colonies.

The company of more than three hundred enjoyed dancing to the music of Ralph Parkins and his band, and the highlight of the evening was provided by the cabaret, which included Elizabeth Welch, the coloured singer of stage, screen and radio; Michael Howard, the B.B.C. star of "Here's Howard"; Jean Cavall, the well-known French singer; and Elizabeth James, who had three days previously appeared as the guest artiste in Lester Ferguson's "Your Song Parade."

Major Basil Curtis was M.C. for the evening and he introduced Mr. Percy Ashton, the Chairman of the London Club, who, after a few appropriate words, introduced Sir Ian. Sir Ian congratulated the London Club on their series of successful functions during the past year, especially the contribution made by Mr. Ashton and Mr. Tiny Fleming, the Hon. Secretary of the Indoor Section. He then called upon Sir Neville to say a few words, who made mention of the early work carried out by his father, and said how privileged he felt in being given the opportunity of playing a part in the continuance and extension of this great work.

Numerous novelty and spot dances were introduced during the evening, and Mr. Fleming organised a raffle.

Garden of Remembrance

Sergt. Alan Nichols has had laid out opposite his home at Portslade, a delightful trellised garden which, on March 26th, the anniversary of the founding of St. Dunstan's, was opened in memory of Sir Arthur Pearson. Near the entrance to the garden is a wooden plaque bearing the Torch of St. Dunstan's. Above the torch are the initials, "C.A.P.," and beneath it the words "Lest we forget."

Great Grandfather

J. Ryan, Forest Gate.

Blackpool Notes

Time flies far too quickly for us to realise in time that the REVIEW notes are due, and so we missed mention in the March issue.

February, in spite of being called "fill-dyke," dealt very kindly with us, and on the 18th a trip to Scorton was enjoyed by a party of "troops" and escorts. As we had a few seats spare in the coach, we were able to invite six of the BLESMA convalescent men.

The British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association have their home quite near here, and we have been pleased to be able to invite them to join us, as we did again on March 27th, when we went to Bleasdale Fells.

On March 21st we challenged five BLESMA men to "fives and threes," but our home team lost. We are now waiting for the return match to retrieve our laurels.

On March 27th we realised that we were a day late in celebrating the birthday of St. Dunstan's, but our port and cigarettes tasted just as good as if we had had them on the 26th.

Many people think that our deaf-blind cannot appreciate sports of any kind, but R. J. Williams managed a thrill recently when he was taken to Ansdell to a Rugby match. Mr. Blythe came along with a friend who has an open racing car. A very much muffed and muffed party climbed into it—the only part showing of the anatomy of R.J.W. was the end of his nose. The car whizzed along one part of the sea front at about 80 miles an hour—the vibration terrific—excitement high—noise deafening. A few minutes later another terrific noise whizzed over the Blackpool Home. At first we thought it was the return of the Rugby enthusiasts—but it was *only a jet plane*. R.J.W. is still talking of the happy afternoon he had and hopes for further thrills.

"WALRUS."

First for One Hundred Years

The little daughter just born to S. Kempe, of Porkellis, Cornwall, was the first child to be born in their old farmhouse for over a hundred years.

Our St. Dunstaner has seventeen surviving children of his first marriage and four of the second.

Ovingdean Notes

Debating has become increasingly popular at Ovingdean and this term has provided us with some excellent speakers. A particularly interesting and amusing debate was held on March 21st, when Roedean School Debating Society chose the subject "That an emigrant is a rat leaving a sinking ship." There were very able speakers for both sides, but there was no doubt as to the outcome of the debate—Roedean was unable to carry the motion.

There have been a number of matches for the Darts Team during the month, both home and away, and on March 16th a number of St. Dunstaners and escorts thoroughly enjoyed another of the Dances organised by Mr. G. D. Cheesman, and held at the Arlington, Brighton.

Term ended on March 30th and the Trainees' End of Term Dance was held in the Lounge at Ovingdean on March 29th. It was a most enjoyable evening and a pleasant interlude in the dancing was provided by Margaret Stanway and Wilf Evans on accordions, Bert Dunkley (electric guitar), Johnny Cowan and Ernie Earnshaw (saxophones), George Ellis (drums), George McKay (banjo), Jim McCoy (spoons) and a trumpet solo from Bill Phillips.

A number of trainees left us this Term and we take this opportunity of sending them all our very best wishes for the future and the hope that we shall see them back at Ovingdean for holidays later on.

From Tuesday, April 4th, the holiday men began to arrive until by Good Friday morning the house was almost full. The weather had been excellent until then. Alas, on Saturday morning, in common with most of the country, we began to suffer from gales and showery weather. In spite of this, however, we continued to enjoy the Easter week-end. On Saturday evening, many of us having returned from spending the day at Plumpton Races, we were entertained by an amusing production by the Clairview Players, "Jane Steps Out." Reg. Coles expressed the feeling of us all when he thanked these kind folk for coming all the way from London to entertain us.

During the week-end there were several enjoyable drives arranged. On Good Friday afternoon we held a Treasure Hunt, after having motored to Storrington, and

had tea at the Manor House Hotel. On Easter Monday, for those of us who did not go racing again, there was a drive to Lindfield and tea at Araminta's. Only the beach picnic (which was to have been on Tuesday) had to be cancelled because of the weather.

On Good Friday evening we held a Concert in the Lounge. The first half of the programme was provided by St. Dunstaners Joe Walch, Charlie Thomas, Bob Osborne and his wife, and Miss J. Leeman, V.A.D. After a short interval we were then entertained by Ken Lyon and George Murrell. These two local artistes were appearing in "Variety Bandbox" on Easter Sunday night and so we were given a preview of their act for that Show.

A reminder to those interested in Sports Day at Ovingdean. Remember to get in touch with Mr. Jarrold not later than May 31st. The Sports Day will be held on Saturday, July 8th.

Shooting

The competition for March was won by J. Boyd who, incidentally, has only been taking part in these contests for about two months. This is a really fine effort on his part. The runner-up was J. Dix. Scores were: J. Boyd 48, and J. Dix, 47 plus 1.

Darts

Totally Blind: Winner, G. Killingbeck; Runner-up, W. Evans.

Semi-Sighted: Winner, T. Woods; Runner-up, R. Osborne.

Invitations

A short time ago, at the Dome, Brighton, I was provided with a welcome opportunity to thank the Mayor and Corporation, the Social Services, and the people of Brighton for their continued interest and help towards St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners in Brighton.

St. Dunstaners living locally in Brighton will agree that the good people of the town are always ready to provide excellent entertainment for St. Dunstaners. The functions organised by the various bodies in Brighton require much thought, and the expenses are often considerable. There have been numerous occasions recently when an entertainment for St. Dunstaners has been arranged and the Organisers have been disappointed that the numbers catered for have not turned up. In many cases the

absence of a St. Dunstaner was undoubtedly due to illness or other reasonable causes, but in some instances it is possible that a St. Dunstaner accepted his invitation but, having found himself unable to be present, omitted to inform the Organisers.

May I ask that when invitations are received they should be answered promptly, and if the recipient is unable, or does not wish to attend, he should make a suitable reply.

Our friends are always anxious to include as many St. Dunstaners as possible, and I know that your co-operation in this way would help them to contribute to your enjoyment more satisfactorily.

L. FAWCETT, *Commandant*.

Mr. Ben Purse

One of the outstanding personalities of the blind world—Mr. Ben Purse—died on March 31st at the age of 75. For fifty years he worked unceasingly for the cause of the blind, and although he had retired from active work for a long time, his wisdom and influence will be sadly missed.

A tribute in the *Times* says: "In his early years, when the blind had to fight for recognition and reasonable livelihood, he was a notable and effective agitator. Later, when largely owing to his indefatigable efforts their conditions were bettered, he played an important part in the administration of the National Institute for the Blind. Learning, ability of a high order, integrity of character and personal dignity made him in every setting of his varied and fruitful life a personality who triumphed equally over early poverty and total blindness."

Sir Ian Fraser, with Lady Fraser and Mr. Askew, represented St. Dunstan's at the Memorial Service, which was held on April 17th at Holy Trinity Church, St. Marylebone.

Births

CASHMORE.—On February 27th, to the wife of D. E. Cashmore, of Birmingham, a son.

HERBERT.—On March 3rd, to the wife of R. C. Herbert, of Bracknell, a son—Robert William.

KEMPE.—On March 10th, to the wife of S. Kempe, of Porkellis, Cornwall, a daughter—Elizabeth Sybil Dawn.

LOACH.—On February 25th, to the wife of J. Loach, of Brierley, a son—Robert Leslie.

RUSSELL.—On March 13th, to the wife of N. Russell, of Leicester, a daughter—Deirdre Annette.

TAYLOR.—On March 20th, to the wife of T. Taylor, of Farington, near Preston, a daughter.

TODD.—On March 20th, to the wife of J. Todd, of Dollis Hill, a son—Philip.

Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

EDWICKER.—To E. Edwicker, of Fittleworth, whose wife died on March 15th.

LOWNDES.—To Nellie Lowndes, of Stoke-on-Trent, whose sister, Kathleen, has died after a long illness.

PRATT.—To Eric Pratt, of Sheffield, who lost his father recently, after a long and painful illness. Eric lived with his parents.

PUDDEFOOT.—To E. Puddefoot, of Worthing, whose wife passed away on March 28th, after a long illness.

Marriage

MORGAN.—On April 8th, W. W. Morgan, of Brighton.

"In Memory"

Private William John McQuirk, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. McQuirk, of Minehead. He was in his sixtieth year.

He was blinded as a result of a severe gas attack at the Messines Ridge, and he came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1920, where he trained as a telephonist. For twenty-five years he was employed by the Ministry of Labour at their Walham Green branch, but retired in 1948 owing to his ill-health. He moved to Minehead, in Somerset, and quickly created many friends, for "Mac" was a genial soul. Another St. Dunstaner with whom he trained, Mr. George Price, also lived in Minehead, and there was a close friendship between them. For twelve months "Mac" has been practically helpless, but he was always patient, smiling and cheerful.

Following a Requiem Mass, the burial took place at Minehead Cemetery, when Mr. George Price and Mrs. Price represented St. Dunstan's and Mr. C. G. Davey, the British Legion. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and the many flowers included a wreath of poppies from Sir Ian Fraser on behalf of his friends at St. Dunstan's.

He leaves a widow and six children; three are grown up and there are three girls under sixteen. Our deep sympathy goes out to the family.

“ In Memory ”

Private Frederick H. Parsons, *Australian Army Medical Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of F. H. Parsons, of Egham, Surrey, at the age of fifty-eight. He served with the Australian Imperial Forces during the 1914—1918 war, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until September, 1948. His ill health prevented him undertaking any serious training, but he did a little netting. He had recently been admitted to hospital, but his death on March 22nd was nevertheless a great shock.

Wreaths from Sir Ian Fraser and from St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, were among the flowers at the funeral. He leaves a widow and three children, to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

William McCullough, *Merchant Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. McCullough, of Millisle, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. He was 76.

He served in the Merchant Navy for many years, being discharged in 1941. He came to us in April, 1946, but he was then too old for training.

For many months he had been in great pain, which he bore with a marvellous spirit, and he passed away at his home on March 24th.

The funeral was largely attended by his many friends in the countryside, many of whom came long distances to be present. The coffin was covered by the Union Jack. Among other flowers was a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades at St. Dunstan's.

We extend our deep sympathy to his daughter, Mrs. McKeown, who has nursed him devotedly, and to his grand-daughter, Nessie.

Private George William Clarkson, *Royal Army Service Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of G. W. Clarkson, of Leeds, who served from March, 1915, until March, 1919, but who only came under our care in 1948. He entered training at Ovingdean, but he died there on March 4th.

When the 1914—1918 war broke out he was an undergraduate at Leeds University, but he gave up his career to join the “Leeds Pals.” He was wounded on the Somme.

His body was taken home to Leeds, where he was cremated. Our St. Dunstaner, Mr. E. Russell, attended the funeral with some of his colleagues from the British Legion. Sir Ian's wreath was among the many flowers.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow.

Pioneer Thomas Edward Gidney, *Royal Engineers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of T. E. Gidney, of Morden. He was sixty-five.

He was discharged from the Army in November, 1917, and came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1927, where he trained in boot-repairing, baskets and mats. His health in recent times, however, had not been good; he bore his last painful illness with fortitude.

There were many floral tributes at the funeral, which took place after a Requiem Mass at St. Teresa's Church; they included poppy wreaths from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends, and from the St. Helier and Morden Branches of the British Legion, and a floral wreath from a St. Dunstaner, Capt. H. Luckman, and Mrs. Luckman.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Gidney and her two children.

Private Clayton Albert Stracey, *5th Middlesex Regiment*

With deep regret we have to record the death of C. A. Stracey, of Edmonton, which took place at Ovingdean on March 20th.

He came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1918, and trained as a shop-keeper, but he gave this up in 1940 to take up basket-making and string bags. He had been in failing health for some years, but he bore his suffering well. At his own wish he was buried at Edmonton Cemetery; a wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's friends was sent for the funeral.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Stracey in her loss.

Sergeant Fred Eastwood, *Royal Northumberland Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of F. Eastwood, of Middlesbrough.

He served in the Army from February, 1932, until August, 1945, and was blinded as a result of his service in the last war. He came to us in May, 1948, but never undertook any serious training. He was a very sick man during the whole of his time with us; he was devotedly nursed by his wife. He died at home on February 25th as a direct result of his war service.

Flowers at the funeral included a poppy wreath from our Chairman, and from other friends in the British Legion, the Red Cross, and District Nursing Association.

He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

CAN a blind person have a banking account and operate it, including the signing of cheques, without assistance? The answer is most certainly yes. The law does not prevent it and in practice the banks are ready to open an account for any person unless he is an infant or a lunatic, for such people are, of course, unable to enter into a contract.

The question has been raised by a correspondent who writes to me to say that a friend of his has been refused by a local bank manager. Of course, it is open to a bank to refuse to operate a banking account for any person if they think that the circumstances justify the refusal. In the case to which my attention has been drawn I do not know the circumstances, but it may be that the bank manager thinks the person concerned is unable to operate the account or that there is a risk involved which he would not be justified in taking. To check on this matter, I have written to the five big banks and they all tell me that, in principle, they do not bar the opening of accounts by blind persons, but in some cases they would consider it the duty of their managers to call attention to the risks involved, but, at the same time, to give the blind person every possible help and assistance.

If a blind person is really going to operate a banking account entirely by himself, then he must have a stencil cut to fit his particular cheque book, so that he can write the necessary words and figures in the right place on the cheque. This has been done by many individuals, and I remember long years ago calling attention to such stencils for the use of St. Dunstaners. It would not be possible for St. Dunstan's or the N.I.B. to provide stencils, because the cheque books of the different banks are of different sizes and each stencil must be cut to fit the individual book.

I myself operate one banking account, upon which I alone can sign the cheques, though I do not go to the trouble of filling in the cheques myself. Instead I trust somebody else to do so. There is, theoretically, some risk here, but it is for each blind person to judge the extent of the risk having regard to the relationship between himself and the person who fills in the cheque and the confidence he has in that person.

I also operate another account personally, and quite a number of public or semi-public or trust accounts in company with others. In such a case, two or more signatures are required on a cheque and there is thus a safeguard against accident or fraud.

So far as our day-to-day expenditure, housekeeping, etc., is concerned, my wife and I have what is called a joint account. This means that either of us can sign the cheques, and normally she signs them all, for this is not only more convenient but also saves me from undertaking a task which I dislike.

The blind man, or a sighted man for that matter, may operate a banking account even if he cannot write, simply by making his mark, but in such a case the mark must be witnessed.

I most strongly advise any blind person who has more than a few shillings or few pounds to handle to open a banking account, for it is a safe way of keeping your money, and it is also very convenient, and I am certain that you will find that the local bank manager will give you every possible help and advice.

An alternative, of course, is the Post Office Savings Bank account. There is no risk attached to this because you have to attend in person to draw the money out.

The general question of writing by a blind person is an interesting one. Practically without exception all St. Dunstaners have learned to typewrite and have their own machines, supplied and kept in order by our organisation, and this is the normal way in which they carry out their correspondence. I receive hundreds of letters typed by blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen, and it is a matter for congratulation to them that they maintain such a good standard over the years, even though many do not write very much. But I also receive letters which are hand-written, and there are a number of devices to make this easier, such as a frame with elastic lines, which allow the pencil to go up and down and yet give guidance, or paper with ridges embossed on it. No doubt some blind people who practise handwriting a good deal maintain a high standard, but my experience is that handwriting deteriorates as the years pass. I can still write legibly and readably, but I have to concentrate very hard indeed, for I find that I tend to forget to move my hand forward, thus doing one letter upon another. Even writing so familiar a thing as my own signature I have to concentrate upon the job, but up to the present my bank manager has not refused to honour my cheques or fail to recognise my signature. A typewriter is, of course, ideal because it never forgets to space as each letter is written, and it is only very seldom that one writes one line upon another. There is, however, the tragic case which occasionally arises when a blind person typewrites a whole page of interesting material and puts it in an envelope and sends it off, not knowing that there is an entirely blank page owing to the fact that the ribbon has slipped. In some cases, this is very irritating; in others no doubt the old saying that what the eye doesn't see the heart does not grieve about applies.

I use a ball-point pen, for the good reason that you do not have to worry about which way up the nib is placed. I know that all ball-point pens have some disadvantage, especially in that they deprive handwriting of some of its character, but the advantages of not having to worry about the nib are considerable, as is also the fact that you do not have to blot the writing and cannot smudge it.

Incidentally, it is interesting to remind ourselves that one of the best-known ball-point pens, namely, the Biro, owes much of its efficiency to a St. Dunstaner, Dick Dufton, who is the Chief Designer to this firm, and who has made some most valuable inventions which are incorporated in the product.

IAN FRASER.

Local Elections

Congratulations to George Price, of Minehead, who was returned at the district Council Elections on May 8th. Standing as an Independent candidate, he secured fourth place among six vacancies. There were ten candidates.

We had hoped also to include the name of H. White, who was standing again for Stalybridge Town Council, but he was unsuccessful. However, disappointed but undismayed, he means to have another go next May. Good luck to him.

Placements

A. H. Carpenter, as a telephonist with the Eastern Counties Farmers' Co-operative Association, Ipswich; B. Dunkley, as capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Benton and Stone, Ltd., Birmingham.

Travel Agent

John Proctor is running a travel agency at Marine Drive, Rottingdean, and would welcome enquiries. He covers world travel, Continental tours, and is an agent for the main steamship and airway companies and of British Railways.

London Club Notes

Bridge.—April has been rather a quiet month for the Club, owing to the Easter holiday. Nevertheless, we managed to get in some matches, the first being an uproarious match between North and South, South winning by a good margin. The main feature of this match was an excellent tea provided, as usual, by Miss Ibbetson. We were then narrowly beaten by Lyons Club, but on that occasion we had to go into the highways and byways to find players. The 22nd was a much better result, as we beat Jock Henry's team by two thousand odd. I think congratulations are due for a good piece of work to Mr. G. Jolly for getting his feet firmly planted in a bridge club at Blackpool, and so giving any members of the Club a chance of a good game if and when they should visit up there. The Civil Service Club also provided a team of ours with a very good match up there. J. M.

Indoor Section.—We are again able to express our pleasure at a number of new faces in the Club. We hope they will enjoy it and also join in the various competitions for the Sir Arthur Pearson Trophies. With reference to these activities, all entries for the different events must be in by June 15th, and all ties played off by October 7th. The lists are on the notice board in the entrance hall of the Club.

We put on record the visit of the B.R.S.S. from Camden Town, and have to record this as our first defeat at the hands of these friends. We can only surmise that our darts form is still good, but our rivals' has undoubtedly improved.

A small party composed of some of our concert group visited the Sports Pavilion of the G.E.C., Wembley, to support the Club chairman, Percy Ashton, when he presented the trophies to the G.E.C. Darts Club. A very pleasant evening was spent in the Pavilion, and in between dances we gave a song, a story, and some magic.

Remember the suggestion box. It's your Club—let's have your suggestions. The better you make it for yourself, the more it will appeal to others. TINY FLEMING.

Outdoor Section.—The ten-mile Walk took place from Bedford College, on May 6th. Full results in the next column.

Magic.—Members of the St. Dunstan's Section of the Institute of Magicians,

together with their tutors, still have lots of fun during practice each Monday night. Would any St. Dunstaners care to have a good laugh, and join us at Headquarters at about 7.30? 'Phone or write to Mr. Mackay for full particulars.

A. J. WILTSHIRE.

Ten Miles Sealed Handicap and Scratch Race Walk, May 6th, 1950

		Time			Scr.
		All'ce	Actual	Hcp.	Pos.
S.S. Section					
A. Brown	...	4.15	95.11	90.56	3
W. Miller	...	Retired			
A. G. Bradley	...	10.45	104.52	94.07	8
W. T. Scott	...	17.15	113.03	95.48	10
J. Lynch ...	...	25.25	110.14	84.49	9
T. Denmead	...	10.25	99.00	88.35	5
P. J. Cryan	...	6.15	97.46	91.31	4
T.B. Section					
T. Gaygan	...	Scr.	87.57	Scr.	1
C. Williamson	...	4.45	92.33	87.48	2
E. Hailes	...	18.45	102.34	83.49	6
F. Dickerson	...	Retired			
C. Stafford	...	16.35	103.35	87.00	7
E. Cookson	...	30.45	116.49	86.04	11

Prize-Winners

S.S. Section: 1st—J. Lynch
2nd—T. Denmead
Fastest Loser—A. Brown

T.B. Section: 1st—E. Hailes
2nd—E. Cookson
Fastest Loser—T. Gaygan

Aggregate Points awarded to London Club Walkers, Season 1949-50

	Miles							Total
	S.S.	1	2	3	5	7	10	
A. Bradley	...	5	1	1	4	3	1	15
J. Lynch	...	1	4	1	1	2	4	13
W. Miller	...	2	1	4	—	1	—	8
W. T. Scott	...	1	1	2	1	1	1	7
A. Brown	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
H. M. Steel	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>T.B.</i>								
T. Gaygan	...	4	3	5	1	1	1	15
C. Williamson	...	—	5	3	2	1	1	12
C. Stafford	...	—	—	1	5	4	2	12
E. Cookson	...	3	2	—	—	1	3	9
E. Haile	...	—	—	1	3	—	5	9
F. Dickerson	...	—	—	—	1	5	—	6
M. Burns	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

Cup Winners: S.S.—A. B. Bradley
T.B.—T. Gaygan

Liverpool Club

The First Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool Club was held on Saturday, April 22nd, at the British Legion Hall, and was very well attended. The Chairman opened the meeting with an account of the Club's activities during the past year and expressed thanks, on behalf of the Committee, to all members for their wholehearted support in all its undertakings. The Treasurer then presented a full Statement of Accounts, after which the election of the new Committee was proceeded with. The following were re-elected:

President : Capt. E. Halloway

Chairman : L. Jackson

Secretary : T. Milner

Vice-Chairman : J. C. Owen

Treasurer : A. Wright

Assistant Secretaries : E. Watts and T. Kinder.

Our two new Committee members were Violet Formstone and J. Shaw.

At the close of the meeting the President congratulated the Club on its success and thanked the ladies (wives) for the splendid service they had rendered during the past year.

T. M.

Birmingham Club

There was a good bit of business on the agenda of the April meeting of the Birmingham St. Dunstan's Sports and Social Club. One of the items was the summer outing and it was decided that this should take place at Evesham in June, if the necessary arrangements can be made. Failing this, we shall go to the old stalwart, Stratford-on-Avon, where we have so many good friends. The journey will be made by charabanc or V.T.S.

Another item was a challenge to the Walsall Limbless Association to play them at darts, dominoes and card games, in the open if the weather is fine; this to take place early in July.

I should like to thank the sisters and V.A.D.s of the Birmingham Red Cross for attending to our lunch and tea on our summer outing, and also for attending to our teas at all our meetings.

I wish to make a special appeal to all young St. Dunstaners in the Birmingham district to come along and help us with

our sports, such as walking, running, swimming, etc., and the field events also, such as putting the weight, jumping, throwing the cricket ball. We older St. Dunstaners are getting a little past this. Our hearts are good enough, but our feet will not let us do what we did some thirty years ago. So to you, young St. Dunstaners, once again—please come along. You will be made very welcome and we shall all be pleased to see you.

We had a grand attendance at the April meeting and no one was more pleased than Miss Fairhead, our secretary, and Miss Gough. This is their reward for all their services.

JOHN H. NEW.

Talking Book Library

April's Apple

After last month's blank, it is surprising to find only a solitary release for this month. However, that solitary book is one with plenty of reading, and *Coningsby*, for that's its name, is a last century "near classic."

Coningsby, by Benjamin Disraeli, read Richard Wessell, is romance heavily shrouded in politics or vice versa. *Coningsby* himself is the hero, tall, fair, handsome, and accomplished, who goes through Eton and Oxford and so to politics. "Dizzy" had tremendous fun with his subsidiary political characters, and the political background is akin to that of to-day. There is a small point which interested me and that was a complaint that Paris, in 1843 or thereabouts, could not produce a hot dinner because the plates and dishes of French pottery could not stand up to the necessary pre-heating. To me that sounds like personal reminiscence, and if it is as true as I think, it is unkind to the French to revive such a memory in this era of export drives!

And so to May!

"NELSON."

For Sale

Two Pedigree Cocker Spaniel puppies, born March 9th, 1950; one black and one golden; bitches. £3 each, £2 10s. to a St. Dunstaner.—A. Relf, 250 Farnham Road, Slough, Bucks.

Derby Sweepstake Draw

The draw for the Derby Sweepstake took place at the London Club on Friday evening, May 19th. Messrs. Frank Rhodes and Alf Wiltshire made the actual draw, Mr. Willis calling out the names as they were drawn from the drum. Miss Ibbetson and a number of St. Dunstaners and their wives and friends were there to witness the drawing.

Here is the result:—

Babu's Pet	... Drummer DOWNS, W.1	2032
Bilbrough	... G. H. RICHARDS ...	1833
	Manchester	
Billiter Street	... T. TUNFORD, Ovingdean	2232
Bright Society	... P. BAGWELL, Sherborne	2500
Castle Rock	... W. HORSNELL, Taunton	277
Double Eclipse	... C. PENNALLS, Brighton...	2780
Eclat	... A. ROBINSON (MICKY),	2229
	Ovingdean	
Exodus	... L. T. ELLAWAY ...	2520
	Monmouth	
Galcador	... W. G. MORRIS,...	1063
	Bournemouth	
Glaicul	... G. F. SMITH, Guildford	954
Grand Seigneur	... J. V. TWEEDY, S.W.19 ...	584
High Bandit	... S. A. BELSHAM ...	1030
	Broadway, Worcs.	
Indian Empire	... T. MILLIGAN, W.2 ...	27
Indigo II	... H. KING, Luton ...	2483
Khorassan	... F. W. WALKER, Gosport	1387
L'Amiral	... F. H. HUGHES, Norwich	526
Main Road	... H. PUGH, N.3 ...	1039
Mattygainmal	... R. G. SHERIFF, Leicester	1699
Napoleon	... J. C. WILLIAMS ...	2819
Bonaparte	Haywards Heath	
New Pioneer	... D. O. EVANS ...	1564
	Llansamlet, Swansea	
Paradiso...	... E. LAKE, Scarborough...	1264
Perigueux	... T. W. WALTER, Rochester	836
Persia	... G. H. RICHARDS, ...	1834
	Manchester	
Peter Fox II	... THELMA MEREDITH ...	752
	Chester	
Pewter Platter	... C. H. SMITH, ...	1272
	Bury St. Edmunds	
Port O'Light	... W. CANNING, Wallasey...	2044
Prince's Choice	... S. CATLOW, Nelson ...	255
Prince Simon	... J. TAYLOR, Swinton ...	1822
Rising Flame	... J. KNIGHTS, Romford...	1287
Route Napoleon	... W. REED, Barry ...	2794
Stenigot	... L. WILLIAMS, Birmingham	614
Telegram II	... G. BURNETT, Sutton ...	1406
Tramper	... R. GIFFIN, Crewe ...	2593
Vieux Manoir	... J. BEATTIE, Mobberley...	822
Volnay II	... A. G. BRIGGS, Norwich	2823
Welsh View	... G. SOUTHEN, Folkestone	326
The Field	... T. JONES, Wellington ...	2671

Braille Review

Owing to the fact that the printed REVIEW has been held up to include the result of the Derby Sweepstake draw, it has been possible to include a number of items in the printed REVIEW which will not be found in the braille issue. These will be printed in the braille REVIEW next month.

Mr. W. T. Curtis-Willson

One of the highest honours in the newspaper world—the Presidency of the Newspaper Society—has gone to a St. Dunstaner, Mr. W. T. Curtis-Willson, M.B.E., J.P. The Newspaper Society is the proprietors' organisation embracing the whole of the Provincial Press of the country.

Mr. Curtis-Willson has controlled the old-established *Brighton and Hove Herald* since January 1st, 1933, and has done much important work for printing and its allied trades. He was a founder member and was elected the first vice-president of the International Federation of the Press. He is at present leading the British delegation to the third conference of the International Organisation in Rome, and at the end of May he goes with the British delegation to the seventh Imperial Press Conference in Canada.

His numerous other activities include politics—for eleven years he was Conservative Parliamentary Agent at Brighton to Major (afterwards Lord) Tryon and Sir Cooper Rawson—and local government, where he has served for ten years as a Justice of the Peace. He holds the rank of Wing Commander in the Air Training Corps and is the senior A.T.C. officer of Reserve Command, R.A.F.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," May, 1920:

"I am very glad to hear so often as I do from men who have left St. Dunstan's, that they find so great an interest in reading braille. . . . When St. Dunstan's was started neither Miss Pain nor I had any idea that so many men would become proficient braillists as has proved to be the case. I think that a very important factor in acquiring the art of reading braille swiftly and easily is to get thoroughly into one's head the fact that one really reads with the brain. The eye is simply the mechanical means by which the words and letters on a printed book are conveyed to the brain, just in the same way as the mechanism of the ear conveys impressions of sound to it. . . . Anyone who takes the trouble to master the braille system can become a swift and proficient reader if he will only stick to it. A little practice every day is far better than a longer spell at greater intervals."—Sir Arthur Pearson, in "Notes by the Chief."

Reunions Again

The 1950 Reunions have begun. On Wednesday, April 19th, a happy gathering at the Oxford Hall, Reading, began the series of meetings which will go on now until late summer. The guest of honour at Reading was Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, who welcomed the members of what he described as "the great family of St. Dunstan's."

The Brighton Reunion two days later took a different form this year. Instead of an afternoon meeting, the guests arrived at the Grand Hotel at 7 p.m., where Sir Ian Fraser, with Lady Fraser, welcomed them. It was altogether a most enjoyable night. Nearly a hundred men were present and the many old friends there included Matron Pain, Matron Vaughan Davies, Miss Lloyd, Miss Bamberger, Mrs. Giorgi, Miss Meldrum, Mrs. Ouseley and Mr. Ottaway. The Grocers' Federation, the Freemasons, the Butchers' Association and the Brighton Yacht Club were also represented.

Sir Neville Pearson again presided when Colchester had its meeting on April 26th. This also was a most friendly and enjoyable occasion. Miss Hensley was there and many friends from Headquarters staff.

Sir Neville said: "I do not think St. Dunstan's has changed much during the years. We have maintained a great tradition. And there is one thing I have particularly noticed at these reunions . . . something which my father would have liked tremendously. Everyone is so neatly dressed. He always stressed the importance of personal appearance . . ."

At Norwich, on April 27th, Colonel Eric Ball welcomed the guests to a party, which although small was a very happy one.

The Grimsby meeting was at the Town Hall, where the Lady Mayoress, Councillor Mrs. Margaret Larmour, now an old friend of St. Dunstan's, received the guests with Mrs. Watson.

Col. Gordon Larking, National Chairman of the British Legion, was the guest of honour at Maidstone, who coupled the toast to St. Dunstan's with the name of Sir Ian Fraser, with whom he worked in friendly co-operation. Sir Ian himself was prevented from attending the Reunion, but Lady Fraser replied on his behalf.

At all of these Reunions the guests were able to meet Mr. Mackay, and Miss Outing was another welcome visitor to the Southern area meetings. Other visitors included members of Headquarters and technical staff.

The Irish Meetings

A Tribute to Sir Arthur

The three Reunions held in Ireland this year—at Cork, Dublin and Belfast, on the 9th, 11th and 12th May—were a great success and were attended by some fifty St. Dunstaners, their wives and friends. At Dublin the function was honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor, who spoke in great appreciation of the work of St. Dunstan's over the past thirty-five years. When Mr. B. Martin, of Bray, replied on behalf of St. Dunstaners, he recited a poem which he had composed himself as a tribute to the work of the late Sir Arthur Pearson. The poem reads as follows:—

Founded by Sir Arthur Pearson five-and-thirty years ago,

*The war-blinded soldiers' hero,
And that we all well know.*

Since he dwelt among his people, nine-and-twenty years have passed,

*But the memory of our noble chief
Will be with us to the last.*

*He led us with his kindly hand
To that hostel in Regent's Park,
He opened a brighter road through life for us
Though his own was dark,
And in after-care to watch over us.*

*Yes! proud men sure are we,
God rest his soul,*

*It was Sir Arthur Pearson who taught the
blind to see.*

At Belfast Lady Turner, a former Lady Mayoress of the city, was present, and Colonel Eric Ball, the Deputy Chairman, who presided over the three Irish Reunions, made mention of her valuable work on behalf of St. Dunstan's. Others present at the Irish Reunions included Mr. A. Mackay (Welfare Superintendent), Mr. Macauley, Mr. Roberts, representing the Industrial Section, and Major Basil Curtis, Public Relations Officer.

Letters to the Editor

DEAR SIR,

May I through the medium of the REVIEW thank the Matron and Staff of Northgate House for the excellent way in which they all looked after our triplets—Robert, Pamela and Brian.

They have just arrived home after spending their annual fortnight at Northgate, and I cannot speak too highly of the excellent care and attention they have received from Matron Reeve and her staff.

Again, "thank you," Northgate, for a lovely holiday for the "Bilcliff Triplets."

G. BILCLIFF.

Grays.

DEAR SIR,

En passant as a regular reader of the REVIEW, which I read "à bout à bout" (French for end-to-end) I must admit that I enjoy it much and am interested in all its items. Being of the younger generation, I do not know so much about the first war chappies, but all the same am interested in their doings, givings, or misgivings. Dear me! Seldom are misgivings published. I should like to read in "Test Results": "P. Smith, whose home is in Ashton-under-Lyme, took two hours and twenty-two minutes to read one page of braille, thus failing his Advanced Test. It is a wonder how he passed his first."

Never mind. I might be the first to appear in that column.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE MORTIMER.

Witham.

DEAR EDITOR,

Old Contemptibles

Just to add to your records of "Old Contemptibles," I submit the following particulars of my service.

In the autumn of 1906 I overheard our doctor telling my mother that if she could send me for a long sea trip to a warm climate I might live. At that time a 5s. trip would have been out of the question. So in the afternoon, with a small bundle and my life's savings (17s.), I stole out of the house and took a ticket for Liverpool (6s. 1d.). Two days later I had signed on as ordinary seaman in the schooner "Pearl," of Gloucester. There were a crew of five, including the skipper. She was a fore-and-aft'er, and a coaster.

In February I found myself in Plymouth and, to see how fit I was, went to the Recruiting Office and, without quite knowing how, found myself a private in the 2nd Bn. Durham Light Infantry, on February 19th, 1907.

My period of service was uneventful, as most of it was spent in Ireland, and I transferred to the Reserve on June 19th, 1912. On August 4th, 1914, I rejoined my regiment and, proceeding to France, was wounded on the Aisne on September 19th, 1914. On September 4th, 1916, I became eligible for St. Dunstan's because of a bombing accident while acting as instructor to the Regiment.

Yours sincerely,

A. M. NICHOLS.

Portslade.

DEAR EDITOR,

When I go away (not often these days) I carry my belongings on my back in a rucksack—a good quality article in which I can get an overcoat (or raincoat), spare suit, boots and slippers, change of underwear with additional shirts and so on. There are three pockets outside. In one I get shaving gear, boot brushes, etc., in another grub for a day's journey, and, if you like, fags, pipe and tobacco in the other.

I took to using the rucksack after my first visit to Blackpool because with your luggage on your back, you have a free hand to talk with. Also, we were often met by a one-armed orderly. Then again, it is less trouble in a crowd than a bag, and if the tube train or bus happens to start with a jerk, you have a free hand to grab hold of something. It is very simple too to unhook one strap and swing the article on your knee.

Now it has occurred to me that the rucksack would be a good idea for our one-armed men and those without hands.

Yours sincerely,

Southwick.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

★ ★ ★

Following Mrs. Robinson's letter last month as to the realisation of blindness by small children, T. E. Skelly says: "My little grandson, John, showed that he realised his grandfather's blindness, and always led me by the hand when he wanted me to play with him, at the age of eighteen months."

Ten Months in Australia

Returning to England after ten months in Australia, several St. Dunstaners have suggested that an account of my experiences would be of interest to others and give them news of many old friends. As an ex-St. Dunstan's V.A.D. myself, the reason for my journey was the fulfilment of a long-standing promise to the blinded Australians of the 1914-1918 war. So that it was to see them primarily that my great adventure was undertaken. For it was an adventure. I could not do it the easy way with "money to burn" and knew that I should have to work out there if I was to be able to stay away any length of time.

I sailed from Tilbury on the P. & O. liner *Strathaird* in March, 1949, leaving on a grey day of mist and rain. The voyage was cold, comfortable and pleasant to a certain degree. We sailed past the Fleet, exercising at Gibraltar; we saw snow on the peaks of North Africa; we called at Port Said and Suez and Aden. We came to Bombay—then on to Colombo, Ceylon, loveliest of islands. On we sailed until in the end we came to Australia. The faint, fragrant scent of it reached us a day or two before the sight of land. It is peculiar to Australia and comprises many things—the eucalyptus and pines, bush fires, and the scents of many flowers. So we came to Fremantle; and Adelaide; and then on an evening we docked at Port Melbourne and after a few minutes I found Watson standing beside a tall daughter and was welcomed to Australia by him and his wife. Then there began for me an almost continuous round of reunions and hospitality, of wonderful kindness and generosity by the old College boys, to their ex-Aunt, or Dusty, as they called me.

I stayed with many of them and met their wives and sons and daughters, and heard the stories of their early "pioneering" days when, as newly-blinded Australians, they had to make a way for themselves.

They gave dinners and parties; they took me to the club in Melbourne and to the weekly dance. At this dance all the old College men in Victoria had made an effort to be present. Here also I met many other than College men, as the delegates from all the other States were there that night. Of the College men I met Vernon Mullin, now a widower and living with his

sister; Tom Corboy, very much the family man and little changed in appearance; Bill Clifton, non-smoker and non-drinker and still with five horses in his paddocks; Bob Archer, busy secretary and Masonic member; Tom Cook, out recently from England starting afresh in a new country. There also the Fordyces and the Tregents came to the Watsons' to see me, as did MacConnell and his wife. Mac, still whispering, still smiling and beloved by everyone.

I stayed with the Tregents, who offered to be my H.Q. during my stay in Australia, and were goodness itself to me. Many will remember Mrs. Tregent as Miss Sharp, or "Sharpy." Later on I went to stay in the Dandenong Ranges, about thirty miles from Melbourne, with Fordy and his wife and sister. Fordy is a tremendous worker and spends all day and half the night with his flowers and his bulbs, running a gladioli farm. It was Fordy who, with his sister, sent me in search of the lyre-bird, so that one unforgettable day, we trekked through wet mists, through forest and jungle, until within a few feet of us we saw this beautiful bird dancing and singing on his mound through his delicate veil of pale grey feathers. One of the moments that even many Australians have envied, as the birds are very rare.

Then I flew north to Brisbane. Everyone flies in Australia. I arrived late at night on a lovely tropic night. Brisbane is a thousand miles from Melbourne and is called the "city of the seven hills." Here I met Frank Clark, another of the College boys; it seemed unbelievable that after thirty years I should be sitting talking to him in his own home town. Together we stood and watched the Eternal Flame which burns day and night in the Memorial, and spoke of the only College Queenslander I had come too late to see, Ben Stafford, who had died four years ago.

Then I flew north again to Cairns, another thousand miles, then to the Tablelands—and the last trip of all, to the islands of the Barrier Reef. It was with real regret that I left Queensland and began to think about getting down to work. Once in Sydney I was soon plunged in work and into the coal strike. I nursed, washed and ironed, mended, cleaned and did a thousand jobs I never would have

attempted in England, but I was amongst some of the kindest, simplest and saintliest of Australians. I learnt to know Sydney, in spite of its strikers, and to love its glorious surrounding country.

From Sydney I travelled by bus back to Melbourne. The Tregents again shared their lovely home life with me until I put myself in hospital and began nursing Australian mothers and babies.

My time in Australia was growing short, as I had booked my passage on a cargo boat due to sail shortly after Christmas, via America and the Panama. Before I left, the College got together and gave me a wonderful farewell party. Willie Watson gathered the troops to her house and we all sat and talked into the night. In the midst of it all, Tregent gave me a letter which had arrived for me that day. Most strangely and most appropriately it was from Guy Foster in Canada, a belated Christmas letter.

Then there were the last farewells and I was on my way once more. Flying to Sydney again, but this time over Canberra. Then waiting around Sydney whilst my cargo boat dallied to its loading, until at last, we left the heat of Sydney and plunged almost immediately into rough weather until we were well past New Zealand.

Then began the long, lonely voyage across the Pacific (twelve passengers and a crew of about seventy-three) passing only whales and flying fishes and seeing only rainbows in the spray, yet never a ship until, nearing the Panama Canal, we took our place in the line of ships waiting to pass through it.

We stopped for a day at colourful Balbao. Then eight and a half hours sailing with a black crew through the Canal itself. Then on to Curacao. The sudden change from heat to cold and then to great cold; the boiling seas and frost and snow, until (a snow ship in a blizzard) we entered Boston Harbour and, like a ghost ship, continued to New York and Virginia, leaving it all again to cross a comparatively calm Atlantic. Then our eager watch for Bishop's Rock Light, the shadowed outline of the Isle of Wight, and the white cliffs of Dover, coming eventually, with our many cargoes, to the brown sails of the fishing fleets and the busy stream of shipping in the grey dusk of evening in old Thames River—our journey ended. V. C. MILLER.

From All Quarters

Charles Gover and Freddy Winter won third place in the Overcliff Cup for the Southend Bridge Pairs Championship in April. Thirty-two pairs took part. Last year they were second.

★ ★ ★

J. H. New, of Wolverhampton, has had a busy time lately attending presentations on behalf of St. Dunstan's to a number of darts and domino leagues which he organised some years ago. With a recent presentation of £100 by the Butlers (Wolverhampton) League, £925 had been raised for St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★

F. H. Kirkbright, of Deal, and Harry Tomkinson, of Dalston, have been the latest St. Dunstaners to receive Ministry of Pensions cars.

★ ★ ★

A competitor won £5 in a "John Bull" competition with this bullet: "A grand job—St. Dunstan's did—craftsmen."

★ ★ ★

When Miss Pease visited Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Tindall, of Scarborough, recently, she and Mrs. Tindall were fascinated by three strange birds eating berries in a neighbouring garden. They were smaller than starlings, very tame, with reddish grey plumage, black on head, tail and wings, and yellow and red tips to some of the flight feathers. They surmised, correctly, that they were Waxwings, who only make their appearance in the British Isles when the Arctic winter is unusually severe.

★ ★ ★

We had news the other day of an old friend, Miss Reynolds. Alan Nichols tells us that in spite of poor health, Miss Reynolds, who now lives in a Convent in Kensington, still continues her work and takes the keenest interest in her old friends at St. Dunstan's. Many St. Dunstaners have appreciated her letters to them since her retirement.

Ovingdean Notes

The Easter holiday over, the Summer training term commenced on April 18th, and on the 20th another of Mr. Cheesman's popular dances was held at the Arlington Hotel, Brighton.

Amongst our visitors to Ovingdean this month has been a group of London County Council Blind Welfare Visitors, and a representative from the B.B.C. Facilities Unit, here to obtain material for a broadcast to the Middle and Far East. From now until the end of the Summer term, at the end of July, parties of visitors will be coming to Ovingdean at the rate of approximately forty a week.

For the holiday men staying with us there have been a number of drives arranged round Sussex, visiting such places as Ockenden Manor, Cuckfield, Arundel and "Drusilla's," in addition to the usual entertainments available in Brighton itself.

On April 29th we entertained the local civilian blind, and after playing a domino tournament in the afternoon, they heard a play-reading by a group of students from the Florence Moore Studio, which was much enjoyed.

The Debating Society have met once this month, when the subject under discussion was "That sport has become too commercialised." Voting went for the motion and the debate was well attended.

A small party from amongst the "permanents" attended a most enjoyable dinner and evening's entertainment, given by the Sussex Freemasons, at which our President, Sir Neville Pearson, was also present. This was held at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on April 18th.

Matron Pain and one or two other members of Ovingdean Staff were present at the Brighton Reunion, held this year at the Grand Hotel, on April 21st. It was a most enjoyable evening.

On Anzac Day our two remaining Australian trainees (K. Farrar and J. Pottage) attended the Service held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and they were also present at the Australian ex-Service Association Annual Dinner, held at the Connaught Rooms on April 22nd.

There will be further details about Ovingdean Sports Day next month.

Test Results

Typing.—D. Alexopoulos (Greek officer), A. Whitthorn, H. Roberts.

Advanced.—A. Carpenter.

Preliminary.—J. Cowan, T. Harrison.

Senior.—C. Beaumont-Edmonds, P. Johns, V. Kennard.

Writing.—M. Wesley, T. Woods, T. Partington.

Young St. Dunstaners

Thomas L. Salter, D.F.M. (London), who is a Flight Engineer with the R.A.F., has been on a photograph tour of Africa since November. The expedition is covering East, West and South Africa by plane and the survey is being made for record purposes.

★ ★ ★

Jean Jolly, of Sheffield, has won her Elocution Bronze Medal.

★ ★ ★

The son of F. Fishwick played forward for Warrington, the winning team, in the Rugby League Cup Final at Wembley on May 6th.

★ ★ ★

Ian Walden (Norbury) played his third cup match on Crystal Palace ground on May 1st. This time it was against Sutton Common in the Croydon Minor League. Ian, who is 17, plays centre-forward and is training to be a quantity surveyor.

★ ★ ★

Paddy Coleman has had a picture accepted for the Kettering Art Exhibition and has sold another which she painted in the Easter holiday. She takes her Finals examination at the Art School in July.

Marriages

Tom Oldfield, Sheffield, on March 25th, to Miss Marjorie Leigh.

On March 30th, Wilfrid Smith, Golcar, to Miss Doreen Margaret Oxley.

R.A.O.B. News

On Thursday, April 27th, Bro. Edward Williams, of Shipley, was exalted to the Third Degree at the Pride of Windmill Lodge.

Presented to Princess Royal

Mrs. Maureen V. Lees, a former member of the A.T.S., who lost her sight as a result of her war service, was formally presented to H.R.H. the Princess Royal at the annual reunion of the A.T.S. at the Royal Albert Hall last month.

Maureen has received from the War Office her T.A. Efficiency Medal, granted for at least twelve years' good service. It is silver, and inscribed, and a coveted award in the A.T.S. Maureen is at present studying at the School of Weaving, Kensington, and was also presented to H.R.H. the Princess Royal there on the 18th March. Her Royal Highness chatted with her for about ten minutes.

Honour for our Poultry-Keepers

From the "Poultry World," April 27th:—

"The only section at the National Test in which no death has been recorded in the first six months is that restricted to St. Dunstan's breeders. That the latter are first-class handlers of stock is proved by the 102.66 eggs per bird as the average to date. Only the Two-year (104.8 eggs), Rhode I. Red (104.55 eggs) and White Leghorns (103.4 eggs) sections have higher sectional averages."

In the News

The *Rugby Advertiser* of April 21st devoted half a column to our St. Dunstaner, Bill Storer, who is switchboard operator at the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby.

★ ★ ★

The *Oldham Evening Chronicle* has been running a series, "They Entertain You," and No. 22 was our own Gerry Brereton. With an excellent photograph of Gerry at the microphone was an article sketching his career. Hamilton Kennedy, assistant senior producer of the North Region, says that Gerry is the North's leading vocalist.

Grandfathers

R. E. Hill, Tideswell; G. Lund, West Hartlepool; F. Green, Sunderland (on October 7th last year); J. C. Owen, of Liverpool; H. Blakeley, of Exmouth (for the second time); H. Bridgman, Derby.

Silver Weddings

The Rev. and Mrs. Dennis Pettitt on April 19th last year; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lovett, of Enfield, May 14th.

Commander Smyth

St. Dunstaners everywhere will learn with the deepest regret of the sudden death of Commander A. D. D. Smyth, D.S.O., R.N., which occurred at his home on April 25th. He was sixty-three.

Commander Smyth came to us in the spring of 1937 to take up the duties of Welfare Superintendent of the Northern Area, Mr. Ottaway at that time being Welfare Superintendent for the South. When war came, Commander Smyth was recalled to the Navy and saw much service at sea. He returned to us in 1944 to take over the duties of Welfare Superintendent for the whole country, Mr. Ottaway having retired, but in December, 1946, he reluctantly decided that his many duties were becoming a burden to him and he too left us.

During his years with us he made many friends. His kindly understanding and courteous manner will be remembered by all who came in contact with him and they will grieve at his death.

Commander Smyth leaves a widow and three daughters, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

Death

BOWER.—Our deep sympathy is extended to W. Bower, of Sheffield, whose wife has passed away after a long illness.

Births

CRABBE.—On April 18th, to the wife of W. Crabbe, of Wycombe, a son—Philip.

GIMBRERE.—On May 13th, to Alice Gimbrere, a son—Edward Emile.

KIBBLER.—On April 18th, to the wife of L. Kibbler, of Birmingham, a son—Robert Levi.

MILLER.—On April 27th, to the wife of E. Miller, of Leamington Spa, a daughter—Angela Margaret.

TUCKER.—On April 19th, to the wife of E. Tucker, of Harlesden, a daughter—Patricia Margaret.

Marriage

BAGWELL—COTTRILL.—On May 6th, Phil Bagwell, to Marjorie Cottrill, at Bradford Abbas, Dorset.

“ In Memory ”

Private Joseph B. Boyce, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. B. Boyce, of Weymouth. He was nearly fifty-eight.

He was discharged from the Army in June, 1919, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1924, where he trained as a joiner, and he continued with this work until his death, which occurred very suddenly on April 29th.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades was sent for the funeral.

He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

Private Arthur Price, *Royal Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of A. Price, of Enfield. He was fifty-three.

After service in the First War he was discharged in May, 1917, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until March, 1932. He then trained in poultry-keeping and mat-making, but later took up baskets, and he worked at this until his death. He died on April 24th and was buried in the family grave at Pontypool, Monmouthshire.

Among the flowers was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian Fraser.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his widow and two sons, Arthur and Bernard.

Lance-Corporal George Lawty, *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of G. Lawty, of Bridlington, which occurred on Good Friday.

This St. Dunstaner served with the 1/4 K.O.Y.L.I. from October, 1917, until June, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's that year after being wounded in France. He trained as a boot-repairer and had been most successful over a great many years. Some time ago he had a stroke but made a good recovery and he was carrying on with his work when he passed away suddenly.

Messrs. Cooper, Tindall and Roughley, all St. Dunstan's friends, with their wives, attended the funeral. Mr. and Mrs. Hopper were prevented from attending at the last moment.

The many flowers included a poppy wreath from Sir Ian.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Lawty.

Corporal Arthur W. Morris, *1st Dorset Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. W. Morris, of Pontypridd.

Enlisting at the outbreak of the First World War, he was blinded at Ypres, and he came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1916. He trained in poultry farming and mat-making, but he was never able to undertake really heavy work. For some months past, he had been going steadily downhill and he passed peacefully away at his home on April 30th.

A wreath from the Chairman was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and family. Mr. and Mrs. Morris celebrated their golden wedding in 1949.

Private Frank Openshaw, *23rd King's Liverpool Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of F. Openshaw, of Burnley, who served with his regiment from August, 1916, until May, 1917.

He came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1918, his sight having been destroyed as a result of his service, but he was never able to take up serious work. For a great number of years he had been a sick man and his death, on May 7th, occurred very shortly after the death of his wife, to whom he was devoted.

Among the flowers at the funeral was a poppy wreath from Sir Ian.

Our deep sympathy goes to his daughter who had cared for her father since the death of Mrs. Openshaw.

Private George Perry, *2nd South Staffordshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. Perry, of Wolverhampton.

He saw service from June, 1903, until June, 1917. Two months earlier, he had been wounded in France and he came to us in June of that year. He trained as a mat-maker and gained first class certificates. He carried on with this work until a year or so ago. His death was very sudden and occurred at his home on April 26th.

A wreath from Sir Ian was among the flowers at the funeral.

He leaves a large family, to whom our sincere sympathy is extended.

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The British Legion Conference

SPEAKING at the British Legion Conference at the Royal Albert Hall at Whitsun, the Duke of Gloucester said:

"A great part of the Legion's strength lies in its being above party politics or other sectarian struggles, and it is important that you should guard this tradition most jealously.

"The fact that we are non-political does not and should not prevent us from harrying the Government in power, whatever its colour, when we consider it necessary in the interest of our members."

In his Presidential Address, Sir Ian Fraser, referring to party politics, said:

"May I suggest a clear line of thought, namely, that we go out strongly for what we think is right and are not influenced or deflected or even concerned with its political effect on Government or Opposition. That was, and is, the mind of the Legion, and it was soon understood and that is why the criticism from right or left that we were engaging in party politics soon died out. Let us go forward then, united with other ex-Service men's and women's organisations, to demand redress of our grievances without fear or favour."

Dealing with war pensions, Sir Ian said:

"There is in the Ministry a new spirit of helpfulness which is exemplified by the attitude of the staff towards the pensioner and their desire to help him to secure all his rights rather than to make it difficult for him to get them. We welcome this and thank the Ministry for it.

"In particular, special allowances have been introduced or improved which have greatly helped the more seriously disabled, so that in spite of the rise in the cost of living they have not suffered too badly. We should still like to see the pensions and allowances which are received by the most seriously disabled reconsidered and some rates increased.

Nor had the case for the partially disabled been met, he said. "In February, 1946, the basic rate of disability pension was fixed at 45s. The purchasing power of the pound has dropped since then so that a true equivalent of this amount should now be 55s. 6d. Between the same dates, in spite of the wage freeze, the average wage of some six million men has risen by 21s. 11d. per week.

"Many are beginning to find that the strain of carrying their disabilities through life into middle and older age is almost too great for them. Merely to carry an artificial leg and harness around, for example, is one thing when you are young but far more of a strain when you are older. Great efforts have been made by employers, trade unions and by the men themselves to secure and retain employment and every one of us admires the man who hides

his disability and gets on with his job, but as they get into their sixties—and bear in mind that the average age of these men is now 59 years and 10 months—more and more are becoming unemployed, and it is a real problem to know how best to care for them. I suggest both to the Ministry of Pensions and to the Legion that a serious study of this problem would be one of the best services they could render.”

Continuing, Sir Ian said the best solution may be a rise in the basic rate, for this avoids a Means Test or an Employment Test, but failing this they still thought that the Government ought to set up an independent enquiry to look into it. It would be a source of great satisfaction to the nation to know that after a second world war, the whole question of how our ex-Service men who are disabled are faring had been thoroughly looked into and reported upon.

“We shall continue to work and campaign for this and we hope that we shall receive increased support from all quarters.

“My travels up and down the country and my life’s experience have taught me two things about the disabled. One is that they are courageous and hard-working—when this is possible—but often lonely. The other is how much they appreciate what the Legion and its associated Societies can do for them.

“I know of branches who have listed every disabled man and know what he is doing and how he is progressing. I know of voluntary workers in the Legion who make sure that every disabled man in their territory is employed or occupied according to his capability, and who go along to fetch him out to the Club or the Branch Meeting so that he is not left out of the ex-Service community because of his disability. It may be that he is blind or crippled and wants physical help to get to the meeting or the local football match. Or it may be that, if left alone, he would become psychologically home-bound, hiding himself away from his fellows and lonely instead of enjoying warm-hearted friendship. Many Legionnaires, some of whom I know are here to-day, have devoted their whole lives to this task and I commend it to every branch to consider and organise and to the British Legion Service Committee to inspire. It would be a fine thing if we could say that every disabled ex-Service man and woman in the land has our active friendship or encouragement in his successes or help in his difficulties or comfort in his old age.”

Concluding, Sir Ian said:

“Can we of the British Legion, a million strong, and the millions of others who served King and Country, not make some special contribution to help our land once again to recover from the malaise of peace, as we defended it from all assaults of the enemy in time of war? We learned, during our service, partly from tradition and partly from our natural common-sense, to be courteous and considerate, to be disciplined and orderly, to move together, and above all, to care for each other in life and death, which was never far away. We learned to think more of the show and the cause than of ourselves.

“May it not be that something of this spirit—alive in all our people throughout the King’s Dominions, but especially vital in the British Legion—can awake to save Britain and all that she stands for; and may it not be the honour and trust under God and the King for this loyal body of men and women to be once again this nation’s most devoted servants and the inspiration of a new and better world?”

St. Dunstaner Ordained

Michael Norman was, on June 4th, ordained by the Bishop of Dover in Canterbury Cathedral and has taken up a curacy at the Church of St. Peter-in-Thamet, Kent. The Archbishop of Canterbury was present at the ordination.

The Rev. Norman took his B.A. degree at Queen’s College, Cambridge, after he was blinded, and has studied for his ordination

at Wescott House Theological College, Cambridge.

The good wishes of all St. Dunstaners will go out to him in his chosen calling.

Placements

Philip Forster, as an assembler with Messrs. Morphy Richards, Ltd., St. Mary Cray; A. W. Heritage, as a capstan lathe operator with the Farnborough Engineering Co., Ltd.

London Club Notes

On September 26th, the Whist Drive competitions for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial prizes will start, and will continue until October 31st. The Dance competitions for the same Trophies will be held on February 2nd, 1951.

The 10-mile Walk was held on May 6th and was marred by the heavy rainstorm of the morning which deterred all but the most hardy. T. Gaygan, having opened up a good lead at six miles, left the place issue to be fought out by C. Williamson and A. Brown. The tussle between E. Hailes and C. Stafford brought back memories of 1927 and the then terrible twins of walking.

The handicap points went to T. Gaygan and A. Bradley, and it was good to see J. Lynch up in the handicap.

On May 20th a cheery party journeyed to Brighton for the Farmer Cup race—7 miles. Great disappointment was felt at the lack of support from the Rest of England, but owing to the sporting spirit of the Brighton Stalwarts, Denmead and Crynan, and W. Miller's sacrifice of a certain chance of a replica cup, to represent the Rest of England, a good team race was arranged, one of the best contests to date.

After the race, the cups were presented by the Mayor of Brighton, and we were entertained to tea and general prize-giving at Ovingdean.

This is the finish of the road walking season. We should certainly like to see some more young blood turning up on Tuesday evenings, and more opposition from other centres. So don't be fright, chaps, come and try it! P. ASHTON.

Bridge.—The highlight for May was an invitation from Lyons Club for twelve of our Club to have a day out at Dorking. So on Sunday, the 14th, at 11 a.m., four cars turned up at H.Q. and the party set off in brilliant sunshine which stayed with them all day. After lunch they had a match at bridge, which we managed to lose. A visit was then paid to the Rev. and Mrs. Spurway, who live near Dorking, and after a very pleasant day the party arrived home somewhere about 10 p.m.

On Saturday, May 20th, we again tried to beat John Waller's team but again we failed by over 3,000. His is a very strong team; and with the Derby taking up the remaining Saturday, we finish the month.

J. MUIR.

Outdoor Section.—It is proposed to hold the following events in the Inner Circle, Regent's Park, on Saturday, July 29th next, starting at 2.30 p.m.:

Three Miles Walking Race for Veterans over 45 years.

Two Miles Novices Race.

Half-Mile Running Race.

Prizes will be awarded according to the number of entries and the minimum number of entries necessary for the events to take place will be six in each event. Entries will close on Monday, July 10th, and should be sent to Jack Dawkins, at Headquarters.

Swimming.—St. Dunstaners are reminded that the Marylebone Baths in Seymour Place, Marylebone, are open to them on Monday evenings from 7 until 8. Payment will be made for each member attending if he will ring Headquarters before he goes to the Baths.

Rowing.—Rowing facilities have been placed at our disposal by Twickenham Rowing Club at Eel Pie Island Ferry, Twickenham. Mr. George Plumtree, who is a senior blade, has kindly consented to act as coach. No previous rowing experience is necessary; most of the members will be starting from scratch. Details from Mr. M. Burns, 2 Melvinshaw, Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey (Tel.: Leatherhead 2892).

7 mile Sealed Handicap and Scratch Race Walk for the Farmer Cup, May 20th

London Team	Actual H'cap H'cap Pos.			
	Time	Time	All.	
1.*A. Brown ...	62.42	60.12	2.30	3
2. A. G. Bradley	Did not walk			
3.*W. T. Scott ...	71.50	60.20	11.30	9
4.*T. Gaygan ...	60.00	60.00	Scr.	1
5.*C. Williamson	62.32	59.32	3.00	2
6. F. Dickerson...	Did not walk			

Rest of England Team

1. W. Miller ...	62.56	57.26	5.30	4
2. P. G. Cryan ...	63.34	59.34	4.00	5
3. T. Denmead ...	65.27	58.27	7.00	6
4. E. Hailes ...	68.08	59.08	8.00	7
5. C. Stafford ...	68.57	57.57	11.00	8
6. E. Cookson ...	Did not walk			

Prize-winners:

1st S.S. Handicap: W. Miller.

2nd S.S. Handicap: T. Denmead.

1st T.B. Handicap: C. Stafford.

2nd T.B. Handicap: E. Hailes.

*Replica Cup.

Liverpool Club

A number of St. Dunstaners, their wives and escorts spent a very enjoyable day on Saturday, May 27th, when they had a trip to Knaresborough. Starting out at 9 a.m. in very nice weather, they went through Clithero and on to Chatburn, where it was time to stop for a "cuppa"; embarking again they stopped at Ilkley for a substantial dinner. Then on the coach again when suddenly, for no reason at all, the engine stopped, and all were amazed to find that it was right, nay, almost on the doorstep of the "Spotted Dog," and of course, it was impossible to be at such an historic hostelry without sampling the beverages which were retailed by Master Boniface. The journey was then resumed in pouring rain, which, however, was quite unable to damp the spirits of the happy crowd. In due time, Knaresborough was reached, when some of the hardier members braved the rain to make some purchases. Tea was then enjoyed by all and at 6 o'clock the coach was again invaded and started on the homeward journey. The landscape was scanned for a likely place for a breakdown and after several false alarms, this suddenly happened. The inn was found to have an abundant supply of the necessary refreshment, samples were up to standard, and after this halt all returned to the coach for the last lap home.

The outing was made much more enjoyable by several of our sighted friends—Harry Formstone being to the fore as always, Mr. Snape, the genial son-in-law of our old friend, Joe Blakely, and we must not forget Peggy Watts, who is always at hand if anything is needed. It was nice, too, to have Blodwyn and her sister with us. We also had the life of the party with us. Not George Doonan, but Joe Daly, who, by his antics and quips, kept everyone in stitches, and the oldest member of the party, Micky Mouse, was in the best of spirits right up to the end.

N.B.—The meetings of the Liverpool Club are held every other Saturday afternoon from 3 to 7, starting from July 1st (July 15th, 29th, etc.) and onwards to the end of September, when a further notice will be inserted in the REVIEW. Make a note of the dates and come along and spend a pleasant afternoon with your old friends.

J. C. OWEN, *Vice-Chairman*.

Derby Sweepstake, 1950

The Derby is over and nearly forgotten—but not by the 25 St. Dunstaners who each anxiously waited for their horse to come home first, nor by the Editorial Department who sent out no fewer than 2,845 tickets, nearly five hundred more than last year.

After deducting the sum of £16 for printing and postage expenses, a sum of £339 12s. 6d. was left to be distributed in accordance with the printed rules. The result was as follows:

1st—*Galcador*. W. G. MORRIS, Bournemouth (1063): £169 16s. 0d.

2nd—*Prince Simon*. J. TAYLOR, Swinton (1822): £67 18s. 6d.

3rd—*Double Eclipse*. C. J. PENNELLS, Brighton (2780): £33 19s. 3d.

£67 18s. 6d. was divided among 22 other starters and the holders of these tickets received £3 1s. 9d. each. They were:

N. Downs, W.1.	<i>Babu's Pet</i>	2032
G. H. Richards, Manchester	<i>Bilbrough</i>	1833
T. Tuxford, Ovingdean	<i>Billiter Street</i>	2232
P. Bagwell, Sherborne	<i>Bright Society</i>	2500
W. Horsnell, Taunton	<i>Castle Rock</i>	277
F. W. Walker, Gosport	<i>Khorassan</i>	1387
F. H. Hughes, Norwich	<i>L'Amiral</i>	526
H. Pugh, N.3.	<i>Main Road</i>	1039
R. G. Sheriff, Leicester	<i>Mattygainmal</i>	1699
J. C. Williams, Haywards Heath	<i>Napoleon Bonaparte</i>	2819
D. O. Evans, Swansea	<i>New Pioneer</i>	1564
E. Lake, Scarborough	<i>Paradiso</i>	1264
G. R. Richards, Manchester	<i>Persia</i>	1834
Thelma Meredith, Chester	<i>Peter Fox II</i>	752
C. H. Smith, Bury St. Edmunds	<i>Pewter Platter</i>	1272
W. Canning, Wallasey	<i>Port O'Light</i>	2044
J. Knights, Romford	<i>Rising Flame</i>	1287
L. Williams, Birmingham	<i>Stenigot</i>	614
G. Burnett, Sutton	<i>Telegram II</i>	1406
R. Giffin, Crewe	<i>Tramper</i>	2593
J. Beattie, Mobberley	<i>Vieux Manoir</i>	822
G. Southen, Folkestone	<i>Welsh View</i>	326

The remainder of the horses listed in last month's REVIEW did not start.

Board Residence

When visiting London, St. Dunstaners, their wives, families and guide dogs (if any) are cordially invited to stay at Mernay House Private Hotel, 53 Pembridge Villas, Notting Hill Gate, London, W.11. Telephone Bayswater 8118. This house is owned and managed by St. Dunstaner John Martin.

Royal Birthdays

His Majesty the King's Official Birthday fell on June 8th and this telegram was sent by Sir Ian to Sir Alan Lascelles, Private Secretary to the King:

"On behalf of blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen throughout the Commonwealth, please convey congratulations and loyal wishes on His Majesty's Official Birthday.—Ian Fraser, *Chairman*."

The following message was received from His Majesty:—

"SIR IAN FRASER,

"I send you and the blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen sincere thanks for your kind message on the celebration of my birthday.

GEORGE R."

Queen Mary celebrated her eighty-third birthday on May 26th. The following telegram was sent to Her Majesty:

"On behalf of the blinded men and women of St. Dunstan's in whom you have always taken so keen an interest, I send you congratulations and wishes for many happy returns of the day.—Ian Fraser, *Chairman*."

The following reply was received by Sir Ian from Marlborough House:

"Queen Mary greatly appreciates the touching words of your message from the blinded men and women and Her Majesty wishes me to express her warm thanks.—
Private Secretary."

St. Dunstaner Has First Memorial House

Early last year, Princess Elizabeth laid the foundation stone of Derby's war memorial village. On May 22nd, at a public ceremony, a St. Dunstaner, Mr. Harold Bridgman, was handed the key by the Mayor of Derby and became the tenant of the first house, named by Royal consent "Edinburgh House."

Angling Success

Mr. T. Daborn, of Bexley Heath, one of our totally blind shopkeepers, is a keen angler. He has joined the Bexley Heath and District Angling Society and on his first outing as a member of the society he won the Coronation Cup with the largest dogfish. In July he goes salmon fishing in Wales.

Mr. Cheesman's London Outing

Mr. G. D. Cheesman, who is well known for the many outings he arranges for Brighton folk, took about a dozen London men and their escorts for a grand run to Brighton on Sunday, May 21st.

The party travelled by coach with refreshments at Lowfield, and lunch and tea at the Arlington Hotel, Brighton. After tea there was a dance at the Arlington, which included some Ovingdean men and a party from the Plastic Unit, East Grinstead, with our own Dickie Richardson. They left for the return journey after an early buffet supper. Some of Mr. Cheesman's friends came along with a variety of musical instruments, so it was a merry party indeed.

Thirty Years Ago

From the "St. Dunstan's Review," June, 1920:

*In Paradise we will not fail
To find all those who taught us Braille,
Nor those who took us for a walk
Nor those who sat with us to talk
On subjects varied and serene,
Whose sympathy, though blind, we've seen,
We'll wait on them in Paradise.*

*There we will sound the breakfast gong,
And when the sisters troop along
'Tis we who'll stand upon our legs
And hand around the breakfast eggs;
Their tea and coffee will be sweet;
Of sugar they will have surfeit;
'Tis we who'll stint ourselves up there
That they may have the better fare.*

*We won't need a dispensary,
But we'll let "Auntie" have her way,
And, should she wish our eyes to mop,
She'll sit us down and there we'll stop,
And think it part of all the fun
To have our sightless sockets done.
And should she wish, well! sure she may
Keep singing out, "Dispensary!"*

*In some big lounge, 'tis my belief,
We'll dance and sing before the Chief,
And we will chant some heavenly tune
Each time we hear, "Good afternoon."
And we will play before the staff
Who used to take us to the gaff
If all you boys take my advice
We'll "stand and serve" in Paradise.*

THIRD RESERVE.

Letters to the Editor

Braille Alarm Clocks

DEAR EDITOR,

I bought one, had it fitted, set it for 7 a.m., went to sleep. Awoke to the buzz of the alarm at 12 noon the next day, too late to go to work. Went to bed at 11 p.m., again set the alarm for 7 a.m. and awoke to its beautiful buzz at 12 midnight. If you pay a guinea for letters, it will pay for my lost day's work.

Yours sincerely,

Londonderry.

J. HUMPHREY.

[Sorry, Paddy, we don't.—ED.]

Givings and Misgivings

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to be permitted space to reply to George Mortimer. I have, *en passant*, read his letter *a bout, a bout*, and wonder whether to classify it as Old English humour or the satire of a Voltaire. Truly, the misgivings and misdeeds of many of us chappies of World War I would require more volumes of a Review of Reviews than any chappie of either war will ever have time to read. Let us, therefore, raise our voices and give thanks to high authority that by the mercy of St. Dunstan's, those misdeeds and misgivings are never published and only broadcast in the watches of the night when the old chappies talk when they should be wrapt in slumber.

I do hope George will never grace the columns as he says, but he might be mentally relieved if he realises that many who fail in their advanced tests have lost the touch they had for their first. If George, or any other youngster wants to become proficient in braille, may I, as one who has retained the touch and the zest, give a few tips.

Don't read for reading's sake. Make up your mind what you are definitely interested in and then get the braille literature you need and which suits your taste. Don't say your hands are too hard by reason of your work—keep them soft and supple by washing in hot water with a good lather and rubbing in either Glymiel jelly or any other good cream. When sitting down for an hour or two's reading, carefully wash and treat your hands as a soldier treats his feet for marching—don't carry on reading when your fingers are tired. Wear a glove or fingerstall in bed and see the difference of touch in the morning.

Nobody with sight reads papers from end to end, just to prove they can see, so Georgie Porgie, when you are also an old chappie, I hope you and all your comrades have learned that braille is not just a quaint and unique method by which the poor blind laboriously pick out words in order to pass tests. I have just returned from the reading competition at the National Library, and it is thrilling to know and hear how easily and fluently the blind can read and enjoy that which they read.

Yours sincerely,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

P.S.—A test failure list would be interesting to all except the failures.

DEAR EDITOR,

Having only received an elementary education, I am not able to use any French, and as a bit of Welsh would not serve any useful purpose, I would like to reply to Mr. Mortimer's letter in the May issue in plain English.

As a St. Dunstaner of the younger generation myself, I would like to point out that the first war men have been instrumental in building up this wonderful organisation to which we now belong, and that by their example they have set a high standard of everything we should try to be.

Let us pray to God that there will not be another generation of St. Dunstaners, but if there should be, don't forget we will be the old boys then and perhaps not so bright at braille and many other things.

Let us hope, however, that before *anno domini* catches up with us, we will all learn from experience to applaud the "givings" and overlook the "misgivings" in our fellow-men. It is more sporting, don't you think?

Yours sincerely,

Braunton, Devon

VIC DAVIES.

[In fairness to George, we must point out that his light-hearted remarks referred to all St. Dunstaners. This was apparent from his last paragraph.—ED.]

Talking Book Carriers

DEAR EDITOR,

No doubt many readers find, like myself, that when they want to take the machine into another room, there seems such a lot to see to that it is hardly worth while moving it. Why not try an old tea trolley?

Yours sincerely,

J. MUIR.

Handwriting

DEAR EDITOR,

Sir Ian's remarks on handwriting interested me considerably. I recalled my own laborious efforts in Stoke Mandeville hospital to recover the old facility, and my experiments with paper with braille lines, a plastic stencil, the N.I.B. elastic frame, and other aids. It was all very laborious until I decided that it might be a lot easier if I did not think about the operation consciously, but allowed it to become one controlled by the subconscious mind. In my own case this worked with amazing success, possibly because I had done a good deal of writing in my studies before I was blinded.

When I was at Church Stretton I set aside a few minutes each day for writing by hand, and have been glad that I did so. I now find it much quicker and easier to write memo. notes on the small cards I had prepared for use with the braille pocket writer, and have almost completely discarded using the latter in consequence. I do, of course, need sighted assistance when having the cards read back to me, but I know that I can dispense with this assistance whenever necessary.

Doubtless my writing will go worse as time passes, but I reckon it will be a number of years before it becomes illegible. Meantime I get periodic checks made of my writing and have thus been able to avoid developing serious writing faults.

Probably the majority of St. Dunstaners do not need to make frequent memo. notes in the course of their work, but the facility to make quick, short memo. notes is invaluable to one like myself, whose work involves dealing with a lot of people whose queries, etc., may be comparatively trivial but who expect them to be dealt with without omission.

In the case of the first war St. Dunstaners, it is probably too late for them to develop their ability to write easily, legibly and quickly, unless they have kept up the facility. In the case of the new St. Dunstaners it should still be possible. I feel that it would not have been a bad thing if handwriting had been included as one of the basic subjects at the Training Centre.

Yours sincerely,

Birmingham.

WALTER THORNTON.

Far East Ex-P.O.W.s

DEAR EDITOR,

I am writing to you on behalf of several of the trainees and myself who were P.O.W.s in the Far East.

We have received a letter and circular from the Fellowship of ex-P.O.W.s (Far East), asking for our support in their campaign to obtain from the Japanese a sum of money in lieu of the rations which were denied to us during the period we were in captivity. The circular refers to the fact that the Americans are going to pay all their nationals who were prisoners of the Japanese one dollar per day for each day of captivity.

The trainees concerned here at Ovingdean have met and have talked this matter over, and they are very enthusiastic about it.

The object of this letter is to ask if it could be printed in the REVIEW, thereby bringing the campaign to the notice of other St. Dunstaners who were P.O.W.s so that they too can give their support.

The Fellowship of ex-P.O.W.s (Far East) has its Headquarters in Glasgow, and I am sure the Secretary would be glad to send all details of the campaign to anyone who is interested. Membership of the Fellowship costs a subscription of five shillings, and applications for membership, with the fee, should be sent to the Treasurer, who is Mr. W. Eskdale, 12 Denbrae Street, Glasgow, E.2.

Yours sincerely, M. WESLEY.

On behalf of the undersigned:—

J. McCoy, J. Fraser, R. Bickley, G. McKay, W. Flower, K. Farrow.

The Young Idea

DEAR EDITOR,

This is a perfectly true story.

About a month ago, finding our thermos flask had gone phut, I telephoned to ask our chemist if he had one in stock. He had, but it was too late to send it up that evening; however, he promised that it would be delivered by his boy at 9 the following morning.

Promptly at 9 the next day, the flask was delivered, and as I was paying the boy I observed more civility and respect than I had noticed in years. I invited him to have a cup of tea, but he said he must hurry back to the shop. I sauntered down to the gate with him; he remarked that it was a good

old climb up to our bungalow; then, popping on his bike he merrily free-wheeled off.

I was so impressed that I telephoned Mr. George, the chemist, to thank him for so promptly delivering the thermos flask and to congratulate him on having the best-mannered boy I had struck for many moons. Mr. George then gave me a shock, and told me that his "boy" would be 82 next birthday.

Yesterday I was in the chemist's shop talking to Mr. George when the "boy" came in. I promptly asked him if his father had been my way the night before as some young monkey had barged into my trellis-work on his scooter; without hesitation he replied, "It couldn't have been my dad as he was at home looking after grand-dad; he slipped popping round to the local without his crutches."

Yours sincerely,

Portslade.

ALAN M. NICHOLS.

★ ★ ★

S. Heys, of Manchester, heartily agrees with George Fallowfield that the easiest way to carry personal luggage is in a rucksack. This is particularly useful to a man with only one hand.

A. Taylor, of Stourbridge, says his little grandchild of only eighteen months already realises his grandfather's handicap. The child invariably points to anything he wishes sighted people to see but always hands it to his "granfer" to examine. He frequently closes his eyes, pretending to be blind, thus proving that even babes know the difference between a sighted and a blinded person.

For Wives Only

In a letter to the Editor, John Mudge suggests a Wives' Column in the REVIEW. This is not practicable as a regular feature, but it has possibilities. We invite St. Dunstaners' wives to pass on to us any little tip which they have found useful in helping their husbands, and which they think would be of interest to other wives.

★ ★ ★

H. Richardson, of Ingoldmells, Skegness, who is a keen member of the British Legion, has been responsible for the formation of the branch of the Legion now known as the Ingoldmells and Addlethorpe Branch.

Talking Book Library

Middling May

Four new books of good average interest grace the shelves with their shining grooves as a result of the industry of earlier months. The library is considerably enriched by one release, "Sailing Alone Around the World," but of the four, my favourite is "No Highway." The other two are "Bernard Shaw," and "A Belgian Manor in Two Wars."

"Sailing Alone Around the World," by Joshua Slocum, read Alvar Lidell, is two books in one. The first book is the voyage of the "Spray," a 30-footer, with only the author aboard, completely round the globe, and, according to this written account, it was as easy as falling off a log—you see, for myself, shelling peas is ex, I said extremely difficult. The second voyage is really the greater feat because Slocum and his family were shipwrecked in Brazil and built themselves a sea-going canoe with no money or tools to speak of. However, it was all good fun and their journey back to North America made my hair one mass of tight curls. Read it once, think a little, then read it again.

"A Belgian Manor in Two Wars," by C. D'ydwalle, read Arthur Bush, is a translation from the French, or maybe Flemish, concerning a house near Bruges honoured by the Belgian king during the last two wars. If the beginning should bore you, move to page fifteen when the author warms to his task. Unfortunately, half the book is impressions of childhood and creation of atmosphere, and that eventually leads to a staccato of adult experience. First impression bad, but plough on and be entertained.

"Bernard Shaw," by Hesketh Pearson, read Gordon Little, is also an historical novel. This book shows G.B.S. as a great man over a great period, as he himself has told the world many times. Be the old so-and-so what he may, he has apparently got what it takes. Read it and reconsider your opinion.

"No Highway," by Nevil Shute, read John Marsh, is a good up-to-the-minute yarn about scientific research into metal fatigue in aircraft. The story is told by the chief of the Research Department, Dr. Scott, and concerns a mild little genius, Mr.

Honey, who, among other things, is a British Israelite. There is a good love interest, a few odd twists, tension, and a great deal of satisfaction. The highest recommendation—the end came too soon.

Thus do I write and having writ, move on!

NELSON.

Reunions

On May 25th, a most enjoyable Reunion was held at the Polygon Hotel, Southampton, in spite of the fact that rain fell steadily and unceasingly outside. Sir Neville Pearson was the guest of honour and he extended a warm welcome to the St. Dunstaners from the surrounding district who were present.

On June 1st, Colonel Eric Ball welcomed some thirty St. Dunstaners at Dujohn's Restaurant, Bedford. A feature of this meeting was the number of old friends and staff who had come along to meet the guests, including Mrs. Askew and Sister Lloyd.

At Salisbury, on the following Tuesday, the Mayor, Councillor H. E. Randall, J.P., was a most popular guest of honour. With the Lady Mayoress, he welcomed St. Dunstaners to the first Reunion held in the City.

Colonel Ball was the guest of honour again at Plymouth, on June 8th, when St. Dunstaners from Devon and Cornwall met at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel. An enterprising newspaper reported discovered that no fewer than sixteen different branches of the three Services were represented.

The Bristol meeting on June 10th brought to an end what might be called the southern half of the Reunions. There is a lull now until July 4th, when Birmingham opens the series for the North of England.

Greetings and good wishes from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser for "a most enjoyable Reunion" were read by Mr. Mackay at Bristol, as were similar messages at the other meetings.

St. Dunstaners at Butlin's

At the special invitation of Mr. W. E. Butlin, some twenty St. Dunstaners and their escorts spent a most enjoyable week's holiday in May at the well-known Holiday Camp at Clacton-on-Sea.

It was the particular wish of Mr. Butlin that we should send representatives of both

wars, with various occupations and from different parts of the country. Although with the limited time at our disposal it was not too easy to do this, we were in the end fortunate in being able to gather together a little band of St. Dunstaners who fulfilled these conditions. We are only sorry that time did not permit us to make the invitation known to all St. Dunstaners and to hold ballots for places.

On May 20th, the St. Dunstan's party met at Headquarters, where a fleet of cars took them to Hyde Park. Here Major General John Hay Beith ("Ian Hay"), representing St. Dunstan's Executive Council, greeted them, and many stage, film and sporting celebrities were waiting to give them a send-off. Then the contingent, led by Esmond Knight, the well-known actor and himself a St. Dunstaner, moved off to Clacton.

During the week at the Camp, stars of the first magnitude entertained the holiday-makers. There were braille programmes for our men and braille playing cards and dominoes for those who were eager for a game. Several St. Dunstaners excelled themselves in competitions and in other activities in which they joined with the ordinary guests. In fact, it was a wonderful week for everyone and we thank that grand host, Mr. Billy Butlin, for his happy gesture.

Blackpool Notes

April—May—and Spring was not in the air! Especially during Easter, when storms cheated holiday makers of a much needed holiday. Blackpool, having the highest tower, the longest promenade, the largest theatre, the largest ballroom, the largest pleasure beach—must have the largest hurricane. The holiday troops were very long suffering, but they had our sympathy.

During the months we have had visits to Scorton, to the Lakes, and to Cleveleys to enjoy an amateur performance of "Outward Bound."

On Friday, May 26th, we drank—in port—to the health of our much loved and admired Queen Mary. We sent a telegram to Her Majesty which was graciously acknowledged

B.V.D.

Ovingdean Notes

Amongst our visitors to Ovingdean this month was Mr. K. Sellberg, from Sweden. Mr. Sellberg has been awarded a United Nations Social Welfare Fellowship and is visiting this country to study the welfare of the disabled here. He spent two days with us and was most interested in the training facilities offered at Ovingdean.

We have also welcomed many visitors from various branches of the British Legion, Women's Institutes and other organisations. Some of these people have come to see the work being done at Ovingdean at the suggestion of a St. Dunstaner friend, and this is very pleasing. We should like to tell those of you who do not already know, that our visiting days are confined to Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, and when you let your friends know this it is suggested that you should ask them to write to us as much in advance as possible so that we may be able to fit them in on the date they wish to come.

The number of St. Dunstaners coming to us for holidays is increasing and so our entertainment programme is expanding. This month, the weather having been kind to us, we have been able to arrange for several drives through Sussex and a party of holiday-makers went on the first trip of the season to the Isle of Wight.

Highlight of the month for both holiday men and trainees was, of course, Derby Day. Three coachloads went from Ovingdean this year. Though not many of us found the Derby winner, we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves that day.

On May 19th, a party of four trainees and holiday men went to the Chelsea Town Hall as the guests of the Far East Prisoner-of-War Social Club. These "Tenko Nights," as they are called, take place approximately every three months and have provided St. Dunstaners who were Far East P.O.W.s with a fine opportunity of meeting once again men with whom they had lost touch since the end of the War.

The 7-mile road walk which took place at Brighton on May 20th is being reported on elsewhere in the REVIEW. Sufficient for us to offer our congratulations to all those who were sporting enough to take part and particularly to Tommy Gaygan who was, once again, the winner.

We have received one or two enquiries about Sports Day, so here are some details.

It will be held at Ovingdean on Saturday, July 8th, commencing at 2.30 p.m. Invitations will again be sent to St. Dunstaners living within reasonable travelling distance of Ovingdean but, of course, any St. Dunstaner who may happen to be spending a few days down this way will be welcomed and they can obtain a tea ticket on application to Miss Guilbert at Ovingdean not later than July 4th.

We were pleased to welcome Miss Chaddock (now Mrs. A. Ryan) when she came down to see some of her old friends from West House recently.

Our good wishes go to two members of the staff who have recently left us. Many St. Dunstaners will be sorry to hear of the resignation for medical reasons of Miss Heap, who was with us as a Typing Teacher during the last two years at Church Stretton and became Escort Sister at Ovingdean. On our return to Brighton she established the Escort department here and gathered together a group of people who have proved such good friends to St. Dunstan's. The success of that department was largely due to her enthusiasm and understanding and we feel sure many trainees remembering her will join in wishing her every success and happiness in the future. Miss Holland, who left us to get married at the beginning of June, had only been at Ovingdean since the closing of West House last October. During that short time she has made many friends here both on the staff and amongst the men and those St. Dunstaners who remember her from spending their holidays at West House will want to add their sincere good wishes for her future happiness to those we send from this House.

Shooting for May:

Winners: J. Boyd, G. Killingbeck.

In the final shoot, J. Boyd won by scoring a plus, the scores being 49 with 1 plus to 49.

Darts—T.B.:

Winner: W. Edwards.

Runner-up: W. Thomas.

Darts—S.S.:

Winner: E. Deaville.

Runner-up: R. Osborne.

Test Results

Typing—A. Heritage (Bor.); J. Fraser (Bor.)

Moon—J. French (Bor.)

Advanced—R. W. Fullard.

The British Legion Conference

Other Points of Interest

The British Legion Conference at the Royal Albert Hall had many facets of interest to St. Dunstaners, quite apart from Sir Ian Fraser's speech as President, which is reported on page 1.

The national newspapers, without exception, and the B.B.C., gave prominence to the proceedings, which were attended on the Sunday morning by the Duke of Gloucester. A number of both London and provincial dailies made editorial comment in leading articles.

The Times, in an editorial headed "Debt to the Disabled," said Sir Ian, in a few moving sentences on the added burdens brought by middle and old age to partly disabled men, said more than all the pages of statistics about pensions and pensioners.

The Legion Conference demanded that ex-Servicemen's housing problems should be dealt with nationally, not locally; that something should be done immediately for families living in huts which leaked.

Delegates felt strongly that the employers' quota of disabled men should be more strictly enforced, and that some standard of wages be set up for them. It was urged that Government Remploy factories were not giving ex-Servicemen an altogether fair deal.

The Legion has since April operated a revised benevolent scheme, by which local Service Committees are empowered to give help for longer periods. Conference endorsed this decentralisation of the spending of Poppy Day money.

Among the resolutions carried was one that blind ex-Servicemen should be allowed to travel free on British Railways and London Transport, either in parties or individually, if accompanied by a fare-paying adult.

A request was also made that compartments labelled "Disabled only," be provided on trains. Other resolutions dealt with free motor cars for 100 per cent. disabled, and running expenses for those who had bought their own cars.

The conference approved a resolution to press the Government to pay compensation to British ex-Servicemen who suffered years of starvation while prisoners of war in Japanese hands.

In an interview with a *Daily Telegraph* reporter, Sir Ian Fraser said that the claim

was based on the action of the United States, which had recently decided to pay to its ex-prisoners of war in Japan and Germany a dollar for each day in prison. Sir Ian added "We shall investigate the position with a view to claiming similar treatment for our men."

The Birthday Honours

The following honours among ex-Service people or those who have been associated with St. Dunstan's will be of interest to many of our readers.

Captain W. A. Perrin, an Australian St. Dunstaner who came to Britain for training in 1936, receives the O.B.E. "for public services especially to the Red Cross."

Air Marshal Sir Philip Livingston, Director General of the Royal Air Forces Medical Service, who has been a member of St. Dunstan's Ophthalmic Advisory Committee since January, 1941, is now created a K.B.E.

Miss Hester Angove, Principal, Physiotherapy School of the National Institute for the Blind, receives the O.B.E.

Miss Marjorie Cox, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Pensions, becomes a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (D.B.E.).

Mr. T. W. Casey, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Pensions, receives the C.B.E.

Dr. Ludwig Guttman, Neurological Surgeon, Spinal Injuries Centre at the Ministry of Pensions Centre, Stoke Mandeville, is awarded the O.B.E.

Mr. S. W. Starling, Secretary and General Manager, Incorporated Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, receives the M.B.E.

NATIONAL LAYING TEST, 1949-50 Report for the Eighth Period of Four Weeks April 24th to May 21st.

Position	Name	Test Score
1	Chaffin, Albert ...	936
2	Bagwell, Philip ...	913
3	Jarvis, Albert ...	889
4	Gregory, T. ...	811
5	Taylor, Tom ...	801
6	Clarke, T. ...	770
7	Woodcock, W. J. ...	
8	Dent, P. ...	
9	Smith, W. Alan ...	756
10	Holmes, Percy ...	628

Average per bird, 144.80

Every bird in the St. Dunstan's section is still alive and well, and of the sixty birds comprising the entry here fifty-three were in full production at the end of the month.

“ In Memory ”

Private George Lomas, 2nd Border Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. Lomas, of Burnley, which occurred on March 10th. Our apologies are offered to Mrs. Lomas for the delay in this notice.

An old soldier, George Lomas served from August 14th, 1905, until May 18th, 1915. He came to us on October 25th, 1916, having been wounded at Ypres two years earlier.

For a number of years he was engaged in boot repairing and clog-making, but ill-health forced him to take things easily and his was always a quiet life. His death occurred suddenly at his home.

A wreath from Sir Ian Fraser was among the flowers at the funeral.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Private Michael Monaghan, Labour Corps (R.F.A.)

It is with deep regret that we record also the death of Michael Monaghan.

This St. Dunstaner only came permanently under our care on March 8th, 1949, although he had been with us for a short time in 1926. In very bad health, he was admitted to Ovingdean on June 26th of last year.

He was buried in the St. Dunstan's Section of Brighton Cemetery.

A wreath was sent for the funeral from Sir Ian Fraser and his St. Dunstan's comrades.

Births

ALLEN.—On April 30th, to the wife of W. Allen, of Aldershot, a son—Graham William.

CONSTABLE.—On June 2nd, to the wife of L. Constable, of Hemel Hempstead, a son—Robert Charles.

DICKERSON.—On June 1st, to the wife of F. Dickerson, of Thornton Heath, a daughter—Patricia Ann.

GRIMES.—On May 1st, to the wife of D. Grimes, of Eastbourne, a twin son and a daughter—Colin and Shirley.

ROWE.—On May 23rd, to the wife of E. Rowe, of Purley, a son—Martin Peter.

Marriage

DOW—NELSON. On May 27th, Robert Dow of Chessington, to Miss Pearl Nelson.

Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. G. Millen, Birchington, April 13th; Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lloyd, Cardiff, June 3rd; Mr. and Mrs. H. Duxbury, Oldham, June 27th. Congratulations;

Grandfathers

J. Kempson, Hemel Hempstead; V. A. Clay, Nottingham.

Great-Grandfather

F. Johnson, Littleover, Derby.

Croydon Swimming Club for the Blind

Miss Woodcraft, a blind friend of St. Dunstan's, is anxious that St. Dunstaners should know of the Croydon Swimming Club for the Blind. The Club meets at present at Thornton Heath Baths on Thursday evenings, between 8 and 9 p.m. After July 27th, it will meet at the same time at Croydon Central Baths.

Guides, transport and coaches, etc., can readily be made available, and all St. Dunstaners, but particularly beginners, would be most welcome.

Miss Woodcraft is ready to receive enquiries at her home address, 47 Green Lane, Thornton Heath (Tel. Pollard 1929).

Young St. Dunstaners

Seventeen-year-old Harry Simpson (Margate), took seven wickets for four runs, playing against Ash Cricket Club on June 4th. One spell took four wickets with five balls; every one of his victims was clean bowled.

Philomena Sephton has passed, at her first attempt, the Intermediate Examination of the Royal Academy of Dancing. Dame Adeline Genée was one of the judges.

Marjorie Shaw (Ashton-in-Makerfield), has secured a first class pass for Theory of Harmony. In July she takes the examination for her A.L.C.M. diploma.

Marriage

Yvonne Pearce (Hendon), on May 13th, to John Fraser Durdin.







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